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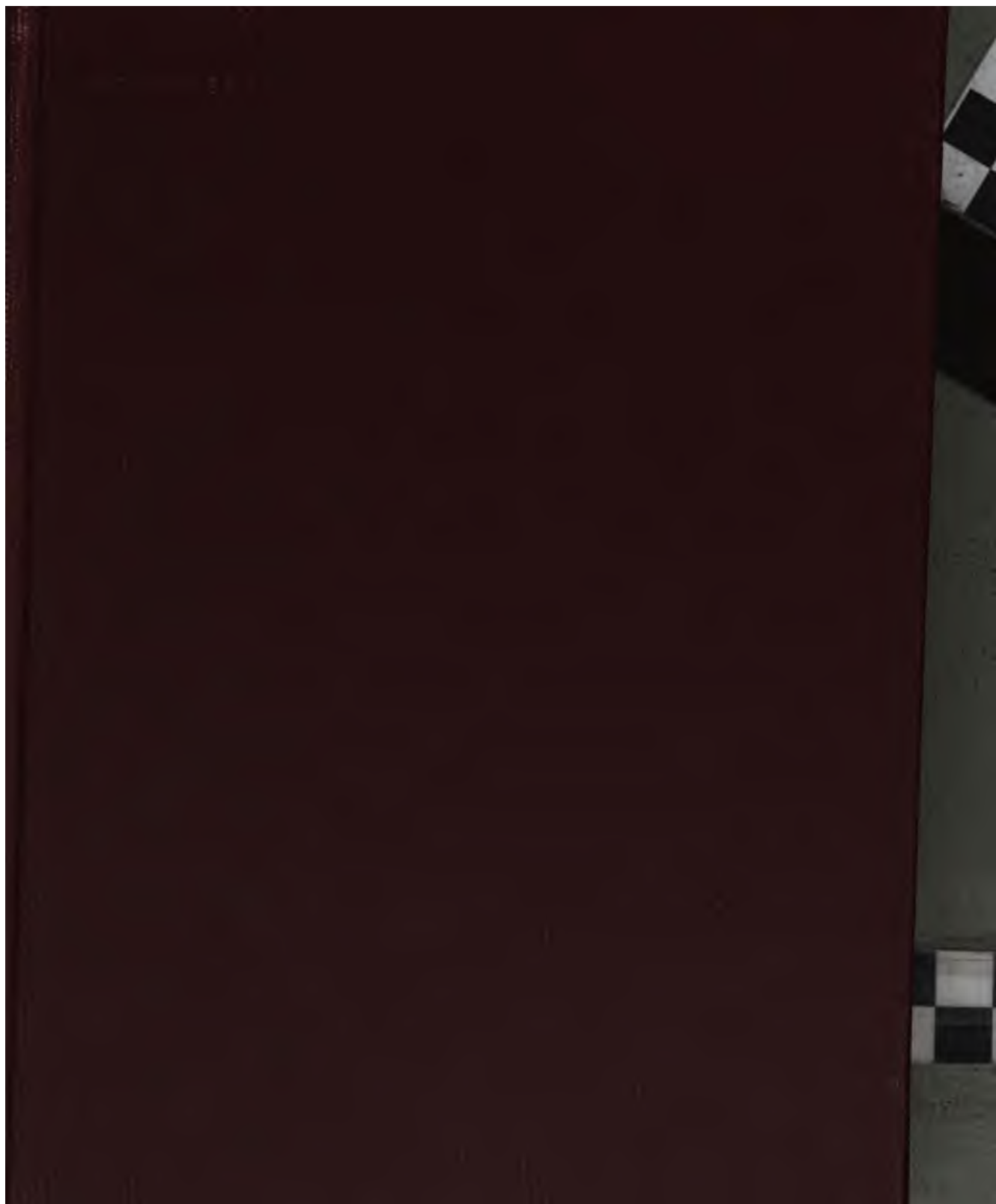
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SLANG AND ITS ANALOGUES

PAST AND PRESENT

A DICTIONARY HISTORICAL AND COMPARATIVE OF THE
HETERODOX SPEECH OF ALL CLASSES OF SOCIETY
FOR MORE THAN THREE HUNDRED YEARS

*WITH SYNONYMS IN ENGLISH FRENCH GERMAN
ITALIAN ETC.*

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

JOHN S. FARMER & W. E. HENLEY

VOL. V.—N. TO RAZZLE-DAZZLE

PRINTED FOR SUBSCRIBERS ONLY

MCMII.



A Dictionary of Slang and its Analogues.



NAB (or **NAP**), *subs.*

(Old Cant). — 1

The head: also

NAPPER. See

TIBBY. — B. E.

(c. 1696);

COLES (1706);

BAILEY (1728);

GROSE (1785); **JAMIESON** (1880).

1567. **HARMAN**, *Caveat*, (E. E. T. S.), 86. Now I tower that bene bouse makes nase **NABES**.

1600. **DEKKER**, *Lanthorne and Candlelight* [**GROSART**, *Wks.* (1886), iii., 203]. The Ruffin cly the **NAB** of the Harman beck.

1610. **ROWLANDS**, *Martin Mark-all* p. 39 [Hunt. Club. Repr.]. s.v.

1611. **MIDDLETON** and **DEKKER**, *Roaring Girl*, v. l. So my bousy **NAB** might skew rome bouse.

1622. **FLETCHER**, *Beggar's Bush*, 'The Maunder's Initiation'. I crown thy **NAB** with a gage of ben bouse.

1632. **DEKKER**, *English Villanies* [**GROSART**, *Wks.* (1886), iii.]. He carries a short staff . . . having in the **NAB** or head of it a ferme.

1671. **R. HEAD**, *English Rogue* (1874), i., v., 50, s.v.

1893. **EMERSON**, *Signor Lippo*, xiv. A long-sleeve cadi on his **NAPPER**, and a pair of turtles on his martins finished him.

2. (old).—A hat; a cap: also **NAB-CHEAT** and **NAPPER**. See **GOLGOTHA**.—B. E. (c. 1696); **COLES** (1708); **BAILEY** (1728); **DYCHE** (1748); **GROSE** (1785); **MATSELL** (1859).

1531-47. **COPLAND**, *Hey-way to the Spyttel-hous* [**HAZLITT**, *Early Popular Poetry*, iv.]. His watch shall feng a prounces **NAB-CHETE**.

1567. **HARMAN**, *Caveat* [E. E. T. S. (1869), 85]. I toure the strummel upon thy **NABCHET** and Togman.

1622. **FLETCHER**, *Beggar's Bush*, i., l. We throw up our **NAB-CHEAT**, first for joy, And then our filches.

1671. **R. HEAD**, *English Rogue*, i., v. 51 (1874), s.v.

1688. **SHADWELL**, *Sq. of Alsatia*, ii. [*Works* (1720), iv., 47]. *Belf. Sen.* . . . Here's a **NABB**! you never saw such a one in your life. *Cheat*. A rum **NABB**: it is a beaver of 45.

1706. **FARQUHAR**, *Recruiting Officer*, ii., 3. Ise keep on my **NAB**.

1754. **FIELDING**, *Jonathan Wild*, ii., vi. Those who preferred the **NAB**, or trencher-hat with the brim flapping over their eyes.

3. (old).—A fop: see **DANDY**. —**MATSELL** (1859).

4. (American).—See quot., **BEAK**, and **COPPER**.

1819. VAUX (J. H.), *Memoirs*, i., 190. s.v. NAP THE BIB, to cry; as, the mollisher NAP'D HER BIB, the woman fell a crying.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, 227. Dirty Suke began now to NAP HER BIB. *Ibid.*, *Boriana* (1824), iv., 145. Josh NAPPED again on the other eye.

1830. LYTTON, *Paul Clifford*, xvi., NABBING, grabbing all for himself.

1833. MARRYAT, *Peter Simple*, i., x. Well, cried she, they've NABBED my husband.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'The Black Mousquetaire.' Once he prevail'd . . . On the bailiff who NABB'D him, himself to 'go bail' for him.

1838. *Comic Almanac*, April. Don't NAB THE BIB, my Bet, this chance must happen soon or later.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, iii., 139. I give him the NAP and knock him on the back.

1859. MATSELL, *Vocab.*, 'Hundred Stretches.' Some rubbed to wit had NAPPED a winder.

1867. *London Herald*, 23 Mar., 221, 3. We're safe to NAB him; safe as houses.

1885. *Bell's Life*, 3 Jan., 8, 4. Johnny led off with his left, but NAPPED IT in return from Bungaree's left on the temple, which raised a bump.

1886. *Daily News*, 3 Nov., 5, 6. In one corner, four boys are learning how to KNAF a fogle fly.

1888. *Sporting Life*, 1 Dec. In endeavouring to reach his opponent's ribs with the right, NAPPED it on the dial.

1892. MILLIKEN, 'Arny Ballads', 21. He NAPPED me.

2. (old).—See quot.

1775. ASH, *Dict.*, s.v. NAB (*a colloquial word*). To bite, to bite with repeated quick but gentle motion.

HIS NABS. See NIBS.

NABALL, *subs.* (old).—A fool: see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD.

1612. ROWLANDS, *More Knaves Yet*, 'Epig.' To all London's NABALLS.

NABBER (or NABBLER), *subs.* (Scots').—A thief. Whence NABBERY = theft. — JAMIESON (1808); MATSELL (1859).

NABBING-CULL, *subs.* (old).—A bailiff; a constable. Also NABMAN.

1780. TOMLINSON, *Slang Pastoral*, st. x. Will no blood-hunting footpad, that hears me complain, Stop the whine of that NABBING-CULL, constable Payne?

1816. TERRY, *Guy Mannering*, ii. 3. Old Donton has sent the NABMAN after him at last.

NABBY. See NOBBY.

NAB-CHEAT, *subs.* (old).—1. See NAB, *subs.*, sense 2.

NAB-GIRDER, *subs.* (Old Cant).—A bridle: also NOB-GIRDER.—B. E. c. 1696; BAILEY (1728); GROSE (1785); MATSELL (1859).

NABOB, *subs.* (Anglo-Indian: now colloquial).—1. See early quots.; and (2) a rich man. Hence NABOBBERY = the class of nabobs.

1612. R. COVERTE, *Voyage*, 37. An Earle is called a NAWBOB.

1625. PURCHAS, *Pilgrims*, i., iv., 467. The NABOB with fifty or 60 thousand people in his campe.

1665. SIR TH. HERBERT, *Travels* (1677), 99. Nobleman, NABOB.

1764. WALPOLE, *Lett.* (1857), iv., 222. Mogul Pitt and NABOB Bute.

1772. FOOTE, *The Nabob* [Title].

1784. BURKE on Fox's *E. I. Bill* [Works (1852), iii., 506]. He that goes out an insignificant boy in a few years returns a great NABOB.

1786. H. MORE, *Florio*, 272. Before our tottering castles fall And swarming NABOBS seize on all!

d.1796. BURNS, *Election Ballads*, 111. But as to his fine NABOB fortune 'We'll e'en let this subject alane. *Ibid.*, 'Ded. to G. H.' 2. And there will be rich brother NABOBS, Though NABOBS, yet men o' the first.

2. (venery).—The *penis*: see CREAMSTICK and PRICK.

1675. COTTON, *Scoffer Scoff* (*Works* (1725), p. 174). Let her alone, and come not at her, But elsewhere, lead thy NAG to water.

c.1707. *Old Ballad*. 'The Trooper Watering His Nag' [FARMER, *Merry Songs and Ballads* (1896), i., 192]. When Night came on to Bed they went, . . . What is this so stiff and warm, . . . 'Tis Ball my NAG—he will do you harm.

3. in *pl.* (venery).—The *testes*: see CODS. Span., *angle*.

4. (common).—A whore; a JADE (*q.v.*).

1598. MARSTON, *Scourge of Vill.* vi., 64. Gull with bombast lines the witless sense of these odd NAGS.

1608. SHAKESPEARE, *Antony and Cleopatra*, iii., 10, 10. You ribaudred NAG of Egypt.

1775. ASH, *Dict.*, s.v. NAG . . . a paramour.

Verb. (colloquial).—To scold, or fault-find persistently; to tiff. Whence NAGGER=a persistent scold; NAGGING (*subs.* and *adj.*)=fault-finding; and NAGGY=shrewish; irritable.

1846. *Notes and Queries*, x., 89. NAGGING—whence is this word derived?

1861. THACKERAY, *Lovell the Widower*, iii. Is it pleasing to . . . have your wife NAG-NAGGING you because she has not been invited to the Lady Chancelloress's soirée, or what not.

1869. *Orchestra*, Mar. 14, 'Reviews.' Don't NAG. I know the expression is vulgar, and not in the dictionaries.

c.1870. DICKENS, *Ruined by Railways*. You always heard her NAGGING the maids.

1872. *Daily News*, 10 Aug. Harvey pleaded in his defence that his wife was a NAGGER.

1880. W. D. HOWELLS, *The Undiscovered Country*, ii. The . . . sparrows . . . quarrelled about over the grass, or made love like the NAGGING lovers out of a lady's novel.

1882. *Athenaeum*, 25 Feb. Describes Agnes as having NAGGED the painter to death.

1884. BESANT, *Julia*, ii. Where there would be no old grandmother to beat and NAG at her.

TO WATER THE NAG (or DRAGON), *verb. phr.* (common).—To urinate: see DRAGON.

TO TETHER ONE'S NAG, *verb. phr.* (Scots').—To copulate: see GREENS and RIDE.

NAG-DRAG, *subs. phr.* (thieves').—A term of three months' imprisonment: see DRAG.

NAGGIE, *subs.* (venery).—1. The female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

2. See NAG, *subs.*, sense 1.

NAGGLE, *verb.* (colloquial).—To toss the head in a stiff and affected manner.—HALLIWELL (1847).

NAIL, *subs.* (Winchester College).—1. See *quots.* and BIBLING UNDER NAIL.

1866. MANSFIELD, *Sch. Life Winchester*, s.v. NAIL. TO STAND UP UNDER THE NAIL. The punishment inflicted on a boy detected in a lie; he was ordered to stand up on Junior Row, just under the centre sconce, during the whole of school time. At the close of it he received a 'Bibler.'

1887. ADAMS, *Wykehamica*, s.v. NAIL, the central sconce at the east and west ends of the school were so-called. A boy who had committed some unusually disgraceful offence, was placed there during school, previously to being 'bibled.'

2. (Old and Scots').—Disposition; spirit; nature. THE AULD NAIL=original sin; A BAD NAIL=a bad disposition; A GUID NAIL=a good disposition. Also as in *quot.* 1819.

HARD AS NAILS, *adj. phr.* (colloquial).—1. In good condition.

1891. *Sportsman*, 25 Mar. Neither Rathbeal, who struck me AS HARD AS NAILS not long since.

2. (colloquial).—Harsh ; unyielding ; pitiless.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, xxxvii. HARD AS NAILS.

TO NAIL TO THE COUNTER, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To expose as false : as a lie. [From putting a counterfeit coin out of circulation by fastening it with a nail to the counter of a shop.]

1883. O. W. HOLMES, *Med. Essays*, 67. A few familiar facts . . . have been suffered to pass current so long that it is time they should be NAILED TO THE COUNTER.

1888. *Texas Siftings*, 20 Oct. That LIE WAS NAILED a good while ago. I know it, chuckled the C. L., but it's easy enough to pull out the NAIL.

1888. *Denver Republican*, 6 May. The La Junta *Tribune* has scooped all the papers in the State by NAILING THE first campaign LIE this season.

1898. *Referee*, 18 Sep., 2, 1. How often this particular falsehood has been NAILED TO THE COUNTER I don't know ; more than once I have done it myself. Still, it obtains currency.

1900. *Daily Telegraph*, 20 Mar., 9, 3. That truth, sooner or later, will out is an accepted maxim among many of us ; and it is, therefore, with a peculiar satisfaction that I am able to announce that the champion LIE of this campaign HAS, without doubt, BEEN securely NAILED TO THE COUNTER of public judgment.

NAKED AS MY NAIL, *phr.* (old colloquial).—Stark-naked.

1605. DRAYTON, *Man in the Moone*, 510. And tho' he were AS NAKED AS MY NAIL, Yet would he whinny then, and wag the tail.

1633. HEYWOOD, *Eng. Trav.*, ii, 1. Did so towse them and . . . plucke them and pull them, till he left them AS NAKED AS MY NAIL.

OFF AT THE NAIL, *phr.* (Scots').—1. See quot.

1808. JAMIESON, *Dict.*, s.v. NAIL. It is conceivable, that the S. phrase . . . might originate in family and feudal connexion. . . . When one acted as an alien, relinquishing the society, or disregarding the interests of his own tribe, he might be said to GO OFF AT THE NAIL ; as denoting that he in effect renounced all the ties of blood. But this is offered merely as a conjecture.

2. (Scots').—Mad.

3. (Scots'). — Tipsy : see DRINKS and SCREWED.

1822. *The Steamboat*, 300. When I went up again into the bedroom, I was what you would call a thought OFF THE NAIL ; by the which my sleep wasna just what it should have been.

NAILS ON THE TOES, *phr.* (old).—See quot.

1602. SHAKESPEARE, *Troil. and Cress.*, ii, 1. Whose wit was mouldy ere your grandsires had NAILS ON THEIR TOES.

TO EAT ONE'S NAILS, *verb. phr.* (colloquial). See quot.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversation*, i. Indeed, Mr. *Neverout*, you should be cut for Simples this morning : Say a word more, and you had as good EAT YOUR NAILS.

Also see DEAD ; DOWN.

NAIL-BEARERS, *subs. phr.* (old). The fingers : see Fork.

NAIL-BOX, *subs. phr.* (printers').—A centre of back-biting : see NAIL, *verb.*, sense 3.

NAILER, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. An extortioner.

1888. *Illustrated London News*, Summer Number, 26, 3. The Stomach of the Bar, collective and individual, is revolted and scandalised at the idea of one of its members doing anything for nothing. Yes, put in Eustace, I have always understood that they were regular NAILERS.

NAMMOUS (NAMASE, NOMMUS or NAMOUS), *verb.* (thieves').—See *quots.*, and *SKEDADDLE*.

1857. J. E. RITCHIE, *Night Side of London*, p. 193. NOMMUS (be off), I am going to do the tightner.

1859. MATSELL, *Vocabulum*, s.v.

1866. *London Miscellany*, 3 Mar., p. 57. It was aregular trosseno (bad one). If it went on that always, he said, he should precious soon NOMMUS (cut it).

NAMMOW, subs. (back-slang).—A woman; DELO NAMMOW = an old woman.

NAMURS (THE), subs. phr., (military).—The Royal Irish Regiment, formerly The 18th Foot. Also "Paddy's Blackguards."

NAN, subs. (colloquial).—A maid.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Merry Wives*, i., 4, 160. Good faith, it is such another NAN.

NAN-BOY, subs. (common).—An effeminate man; a MISS NANCY (*q.v.*)

1691. *Merry Drollery*, 'Jovial Lover,' p. 12. The Pipe and the Flute are the new Alamode for the NAN-BOYS.

1898. *Sporting Times*, 19 Feb., i., 3. But do you think we enjoyed these superfine MISS NANCIES a quarter as much as we did the daring darlings who subsequently lured them down the Madeira Drive?

2. (venery).—A catamite.

NANCY, subs. (common).—1. The breech.—VAUX (1823). See BUM and MONOCULAR EYEGLASS. ASK MY NANCY, *see quot.*

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. ASK MY NANCY, a very vulgar recommendation, seeing that it is a mute.

ALSO *see* NANBOY.

NANNY, subs. (colloquial).—1. A goat.

2. (common).—A whore: *see* BARRACK-HACK and TART.

NANNY-GOAT, subs. (colloquial).—

1. An anecdote.

1860. HALIBURTON (SAM SLICK), *The Season Ticket*, No. 11. I'll swop NANNY GOATS with you, and give you best when you tell the best one.

2. (military).—In *pl.* = The Royal Welsh Fusiliers, formerly the Twenty-third Foot: the regiment has a pet goat which is led with garlanded horns and a shield at the head of the drums—how the custom arose is unknown. Also "The Royal Goats."

NANNY-HEN, AS NICE AS A NANNY-HEN, phr. (old).—Very affected; delicate. *Cf.* NUN'S HEN.

[?] *M.S. Lambeth*, 306, f. 135. Women, women, love of women Make bare purs with some men. Some be NYSE AS A NANNIE HEN, . . . Some be lewde, some all be shreude, Go schrewes where thei goo.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dictionary* [HALLIWELL]. . . AS NICE AS NUNNES HENNE.

NANNY-SHOP (or -HOUSE), subs. (common).—A brothel: in *quot.* 1836 the cottage of a planter's smock-servant.—B. E. (*c.* 1696); GROSE (1785).

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. Academy; badger-crib; bawdy-house; bed-house; bread-and-butter-warehouse (specifically Ranelagh Gardens: *cf.* BREAD AND BUTTER-FASHION); bum-shop; buttocking-shop (*cf.* Fr. *magasin de fesses*); cab (*cf.* Fr. *un bordel ambulant*); button-hole factory; case (Old Cant); cavaulting school; Corinth; coupling-house; Covent Garden nunnery; cunt-shop; cunny-warren; disorderly-house; fancy-house; finishing-academy; fish-market; fish-pound; flash-drum (-house, or -ken); flesh-market; fuckery; garden-house; goal; green-grocery; hook-house (or -shop); also hock-house: hooker in America =

1600. *The Maydes Metamorphosis*,
I'll take a NAP and come anon.

1625. MASSINGER, *Parliament of Love*, ii., 3. I here shall take a NAP.

1664. COTTON, *Scarronides*, 102.
And whilst he taking was a NAP, She
layed him neatly in her Lap.

d.1796. BURNS, *Awa, Whigs, Awa*.
Grim Vengeance lang has ta'en a NAP.

1842. TENNYSON, *Day Dream*, 156.
'Twas but at after dinner NAP.

3. (colloquial).—*See* quot. 1867.

1858. LYTTON, *What Will He Do With It*, 309. He would not have crossed
a churchyard alone at night for a thousand
NAPS.

1867. LATHAM, *Dict.*, s.v. NAP.
Abbreviation for Napoleon, *i.e.*, the coin
so called.

4. (Scots').—*See* quot. 1808 ;
an abbreviation of NAPPY (*q.v.*).

1804. TARRAS, *Poems*, p. 24. Nor
did we drink o' gilpin water ; But reemin
NAP, wi' houp weel heartit.

1808. JAMIESON, *Dict.*, s.v. NAP.
A cant term for ale, or a stronger kind
of beer. Aberd.

5. (old).—*See* quotes. Also as
verb.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*,
s.v. NAP, a clap or pox.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.
NAP. You have NAFT it, you are infected.

Verb. (old).—1. *See* quotes.

c.1996. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v.
NAP. By cheating with the Dice to secure
one chance.

d.1704. TOM BROWN, *Works*, iii., 60.
Assisting the frail square die with high
and low fullams, and other NAPPING
tricks.

1728. BAILEY, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v.
NAP, to cheat at dice.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.
NAP.

TO CATCH (or TAKE NAPPING.
verb. phr. (colloquial).—1. To take
unawares ; to take in the act.

1587. GREENE, *Tritameron*, II.
[GROSART, *Works* (1886), iii.]. With that
Panthia, & the rest, TOOK THEM
NAPPING.

1593. SHAKESPEARE, *Taming of the Shrew*, iv., 2. Nay, I have TA'EN YOU
NAPPING, gentle love.

1606. *Ret. fr. Parnassus*, iii., 5
[DODSLEY, *Old Plays*, ix., 286]. Now
may it please thy generous dignity To
TAKE this vermin NAPPING, as he lies In
the true lap of liberality.

1663. BUTLER, *Hud.*, I., iii. I TOOK
THEE NAPPING unprepared.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v.

d.1727. DEFOE, *Tour through Gt. Brit.*, iii., 143. HAND-NAPPING—that is
when the criminal was taken in the very
act of stealing cloth.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.
NAP. He caught him NAPPING as Morse
caught his mare.

1847. PORTER, *Quarter Race*, 120.
They'd caught the old man NAPPING once.

TO GO NAP, *verb. phr.* (col-
loquial).—To risk everything on
a single point ; 'to go the WHOLE
HOG' (*q.v.*) [From the game of
cards].

1860. GLOVER, *Racing Life*, 38. Look
here, you GO NAP—now, hear that? NAP—
on Royal Angus.

1883. W. BLACK, *Yolande*, xxxix.
After dinner the familiar and innocent
sixpenny nap was agreed upon. But even
at this mild performance you can lose a
fair amount if you persistently GO NAP on
almost any sort of a hand that turns up.

1888. *Barnet Press*, 1 Dec. He
could say that Elstree and Shenley would
GO NAP for Mr Todhunter.

1891. *Answers*, 28 Mar. In the
innocence of my heart, I adjured all
readers of the paper to GO NAP on Nostrils
for the 2.30 race !

1898. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 20 Sep., 2., 2.
It is permissible to doubt whether it was
wise to GO NAP—if an Orleans can GO NAP
—on Dreyfus's guilt and the infallibility of
the court-martial which condemned him.

TO NAP TOCO FOR YAM, *verb.*
phr. (old).—*See* quot.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. NAP . . .
to get more beating than is given.

See also REGULARS, SLAP,
and TEIZE.

1789. GEO. PARKER, *Life's Painter*, p. 149. A kind of fellow who dresses smart, or what they term NATTY.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Crib's Mem.*, 10. From NATTY barouche down to buggy precarious.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v.

1849. C. BRONTE, *Shirley*, xv. Sweetening alone received the posy like a smart, sensible little man as he was, putting it gallantly and NATTILY into his button-hole.

1860. G. ELIOT, *Mill on the Floss*, ii., 7. A connoisseur might have seen 'point' in her which had a higher promise for maturity than Lucy's NATTY completeness. *Ibid.*, *Silas Marner* (1861), xi. Everything belonging to Miss Nancy was of delicate purity and NATTINESS . . . as for her own person it gave the same idea of perfect unvarying neatness as the body of a little bird.

1867. LATHAM, *Dict.*, s.v., NATTY, Smart, spruce [colloq.].

1872. *Figaro*, 22 June. A NATTIER rig you'll hardly twig.

1875. OUIDA, *Signa*, iii., x., p. 221. It seems a nice easy trade, said Nita, tempted; and lying must be handy in it; that would suit him. No one lies so NATTILY as Toto.

1889. *Harper's Mag.*, LXXIX., 819. A very NATTY little officer, whose handsome uniform was a source of great pride and a matter of great pride to him.

1892. MILLIKEN, *'Arry Ballads*, p. 24. NATTY cove.

NATTY-LAD, *subs.* (thieves').—A young thief or pickpocket.—GROSE (1785); HALLIWELL (1847).

NATURAL, *subs.* (old).—1. A mistress: see TART.—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

1688. SHADWELL, *Sg. of Alsatia*, ii. [*Wks.* (1720), iv., 47]. But where's your lady, captain, and the blowing, that is to be my NATURAL, my convenient, my pure? *Ibid.*, i., iv., *Shamwell*. Thou art i' th' right; but, captain, where's the convenient, the NATURAL?

2. (colloquial).—An idiot; a simpleton.—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

1595. SHAKESPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, ii., 4. This drivelling love is like a great NATURAL, that runs lolling up and down to hide his bauble in a hole. *Ibid.*, *Tempest* (1609), iii., 2, 37. That a monster should be such a NATURAL.

1609. DECKER, *Guls Horne-booke*, ii. [GROSART, *Works* (1886), ii., 216]. They which want sleepe . . . become either mere NATURALS or else fall into the Doctor's hands.

1614. ROWLANDS, *A Fooles Bolt is Soone Shott*, i. p. 22 (H. Club's Repr., 1873). The Duke of Brunswicke had a NATURALL, Whom all the Court did sotton *foris* call.

1722. STEELE, *Consc. Lovers*, ii., 1. I own the man is not a NATURAL; he has a very quick Sense, tho' a slow Understanding.

1766. COLMAN, *Cland. Marriage*, i. [*Works* (1777), i., 177]. This ridiculous love! we must put a stop to it. It makes a perfect NATURAL of the girl.

1825. NEAL, *Bro. Jonathan*, ii., 15. He's your brother, I guess?—ain't he?—sort of a NATTERAL, too, I guess?

1874. MRS. H. WOOD, *Johnny Ludlow*, 1st S., No. xvi., p. 287. The man opened his mouth and closed it again; like, as Molly put it, a born NATURAL.

3. (old).—A bastard.—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

4. (American thieves').—A clever, quick-witted, generous man.—MATSELL (1859).

5. (obsolete).—See quot.

1888. *Encycl. Brit.* xxiv., 560 s.v. Wig. In 1724 the peruke-makers advertised full bottom tyes, full bobs, minister's bobs, NATURALS, half naturals . . . among the variety of artificial head gear which they supplied.

Adj. (American).—Not squeamish.—MATSELL (1859).

1589. GREENE, *Tullies Love*, Shepherd's Ode [GROSART, *Works* (1886), vii., 183]. *Shce* nise, Following fashion, NAYED him wise.

NAY-WORD, *subs.* (old).—‘A common By-word or Proverb.’—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

NAZOLD, *subs.* (old colloquial).—A vain fool.

1629. *Optick Glasse of Humors*, 160. I know some self-conceited NAZOLD, and some jaundice-fac'd ideot, that uses to deprave and detract men's worthinesse, by their base obloquy.

NAZY, *See* NASE.

N.C. *phr.* (common).—‘Enough said’ (nuf ced); *Cf.* O.K.

NEAR (also **NIGH** and **NARROW**), *adj.* and *adv.* (colloquial).—I. Formerly careful, now (contemptuously) = stingy; ‘close-fisted.’ *Fr. serré*. Thus NEARNESS (*subs.*) = a parsimonious habit.

1591. SAVILE, *Tacitus*, Hist., I, II. Now for NEARENESS Galba was noted extremelie.

1603. DEKKER, *Batchelors Banquet*, vii. The good man he goes every way as NEERE as he can, and warilie contains himselfe within his bounds, casting vp what his yearely reuenues are, or what his gaine is by his profession, be it merchandize or other, and then what his expenses be.

1616. *The Merchants' Aviso* (quoted in *Notes and Queries*, 7 S., vi., 504). Also to be circumspect and NIGH in all his expenses.

1712. *Spectator*, No. 350. I have a very good affectionate father; but though very rich, yet so mighty NEAR, that he thinks much of the charges of my education. *Ibid.*, No. 402. I always thought he lived in a NEAR way.

1816. SCOTT, *Antiquary*, xi. I'll rather deal wth yourself; for, though you're NEAR enough, yet Miss Grizel has an unco close grip.

1847. E. BRONTE, *Wuthering Heights*, xv., iii. The villagers affirmed Mr. Heathcliff was NEAR, and a cruel hard landlord to his tenants.

1849. DICKENS, *David Copperfield*, x. Mr. Barkis was something of a miser, or, as Peggotty dutifully expressed it, ‘was a little NEAR.’

2. (colloquial).—On the left side: *cf.* OFF.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. NEAR. Postillions ride on the NEAR horse in England—the Russians drive on the off horse. *Ibid.* The left kidney being nearer the heart than the right one is called THE NEAR, the melt interposing between it and the ribs.

1859. *Art of Taming Horses*, 77. The motion will draw up the off leg into the same position as the NEAR leg.

NEARDY, *subs.* (provincial: North).—A person in authority—master, parent, foreman [HOTTEN].

NEAT, *adj.* (colloquial).—Unmixed with water; NAKED (*q.v.*); SHORT (*q.v.*); STRAIGHT (*q.v.*)

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. Aboriginal; ‘ah! don't mingle’; as it came from its mother; bald-faced; bare-footed; clean from the still; cold-without; *in puris naturalibus*; in a state of nature; naked; neat as imported; neat; *simplex munditiis*; out of the barrel; plain; primitive; pure; raw; raw recruit; reverend; stark-naked; straight; stripped; unalloyed; unmarried; unsophisticated; uncorrupted; untempered; virgin; without a shirt.

1596. JONSON, *Every Man in his Humour*, iv., 4. We'll go to the Windmill; there we shall have a cup of NEAT grist, we call it.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, I, iii. [BOHN, I., 106]. He loved to drink NEAT, as much as any man that then was in the world.

1711. STEELE, *Spect.*, No. 264. The hogsheads of NEAT port came safe.

1742. FIELDING, *Joseph Andrews*, iii., iii. My wines, which I never adulterated after their importation, and were sold as NEAT as they came over.

1751. SMOLLETT, *Peregrine Pickle*, viii. He . . . judged the cordial to be no other than NEAT Cogniac.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab., etc.*, i., 397. I was obliged to drink rum; it wouldn't ha' done to ha' drunk the water NEAT, there was so many insects in it.

1876. BESANT and RICE, *Golden Butterfly*, i. I should take a small glass of brandy NEAT. Mind, no spoiling the effect with water.

AS NEAT AS (A BANDBOX, A NEW PIN, WAX, NINEPENCE), *phr.* (colloquial).—As neat as may be.

1884. HENLEY and STEVENSON, *Deacon Brodie*, iii., 3 (Three Plays, 36). We've nobbled him, AS NEAT AS NINEPENCE.

NEAT, BUT NOT GAUDY: AS THE DEVIL SAID WHEN HE PAINTED HIS BOTTOM RED, AND TIED UP HIS TAIL WITH SKY-BLUE RIBBON, *phr.* (common).—Spick and span; 'fresh as a daisy.'

1887. *Lippincott's Mag.*, July, p. 116. I have sent, I say, just such manuscript as editors call for, fair, clean, written on one side, not with a pencil, but with a good gold pen, stamps enclosed for return if declined; the whole thing 'NEAT, BUT NOT GAUDY, as the monkey said' on the memorable occasion 'when he painted his tail sky-blue.'

1892. *Society*, 6 Aug., p. 757, col. 1. Tennyson when in a rage is NEAT AND NOT GAUDY.

NEB (or NIB), *subs.* (old colloquial: now recognised).—1. Originally the bill of a bird; hence the face, mouth, or nose: specifically [B.E. (c. 1696), GROSE (1785), and MATSELL (1859)] of a woman.

c. 1225. *Ancren Riwele*, 90. Scheau thi leoue NEB to me.

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NEB. She holds up her NEB: she turns up her mouth to be kissed.

2. (old colloquial: now recognised).—A pen.—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

3. (old).—The neck.

1535. COVERDALE, *Bible*, Gen. viii., 17. Beholde she had broken of a leaf of an olyue tre and bare it on her NEBB.

d. 1622. BACON, *Nat. Hist.* Take a glasse with a belly and a long NEB.

NEBUCHADNEZZAR, *subs.* (venery).

—1. The *penis*. [From its taste for GREENS (*q.v.*)]. See PRICK. TO TAKE NEBUCHADNEZZAR OUT TO GRASS = to copulate. See GREENS and RIDE.

2. (common).—A vegetarian.

NECESSARY, *subs.* (old).—1. A bedfellow. See TART.

2. (old colloquial).—A privy. Also NECESSARY HOUSE (or VAULT).

1609. FIELD, *Woman is a Weathercock*, iv., 2. She showed me to a NECESSARY VAULT. Within a closet in the chamber too.

1611. FIELD, *Amends for Ladies*, ii., 4. I met her in the NECESSARY HOUSE i' th' morning.

c. 1786. MORRIS, *The Plenipotentiary*. For fancied delight . . . To frig in the school NECESSARY.

NECK, *verb* (old).—1. To hang: see LADDER. Whence, NECK-CLOTH (NECKINGER, NECKLACE, NECK-SQUEEZER, or NECKTIE) = a halter; NECKTIE-SOCIABLE = a hanging done by a Vigilance Committee; NECK-QUESTION = a hanging matter, something vital; NECK-VERSE, see quot., 1696; NECK-WEED = hemp, or GALLOWS-GRASS (*q.v.*); TO WEAR A HEMPEN NECKTIE, etc. = to be hanged.

1536. TYNDALE, *Workes*, 112. Yea set forth a NECKVERSE to saue all manner of trespassers, fro the feare of the sword.

1578. WHETSTONE, *Promos and Cass.*, iv., 4. And it behoves me to be secret, or else my NECK-VERSE cun [con].

1578. LVTE, Transl. of DODORN'S *Hist. of Planes*, fol. 72. Henpe is called in . . . English, NECKE-WEED, and Gallows grasse.

1578. *Hist. of K. Lier* [Six Old Plays, ii., 410]. Madam, I hope your grace will stand Betweene me and my NECK-VERSE, if I be Call'd in question for opening the king's letters.

1586. MARLOWE, *Jew of Malta*, iv., 4. Within forty foot of the gallows conning his NECK-VERSE.

1587. GREENE, *Menaphon* [GROSART, *Works* (1886), vi., 15]. A sort of shifting companions, that . . . busie themselves with the indeuors of Art, that could scarcele latinize their NECKE-VERSE if they should haue neede.

1597. HARVEY, *Pierces Supererogation* [GROSART, *Works* (1884-5), ii., 281]. Thy penne is as very a Gentleman Foist, as any pick-purse liuing; and, that which is most miserable, not a more famous NECK-VERSE, than thy choice.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. Some call it NECK-WEED, for it hath a tricke To cure the necke that's troubled with the crick.

1637. MASSINGER, *Guardian*, iv., 1. Have not your instruments To tune, when you should strike up, but twang it perfectly, As you would read your NECK-VERSE.

1647. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Bonduca*, iv., 1. What's the crime committed That they wear NECKLACES?

1655. FULLER, *Ch. Hist.* These words, 'bread and cheese,' were their NECK-VERSE or shibboleth to distinguish them.

1659. *Clobery Div. Glimpses* (quoted in *Slang, Jargon, and Cant*). The judge will read thy NECK-VERSE for thee here.

1662. *Rump Songs*, 'The Rump Dock't', ii., 45. Instead of NECK-VERSE, Shall have it writ on his Herse, There hangs one of the King's Fryers.

1664. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* [Wks. (1725), Bk. iv., p. 133]. Seeing the Rope Ty'd to the Beam i' th' Chamber-top, With neat alluring Noose, her sick grace E'en long'd to wear it for a NECK-LACE.

1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NECK-VERSE. A Favor (formerly) indulged to the Clergy only, but (now) to the Laity also, to mitigate the Rigor of the Law, as in Man-slaughter, etc. Reading a verse out of an old Manuscript Latin Psalter (tho' the Book now used by the Ordinary is the same Printed in an Old English Character) save the Criminal's Life. Nay now even the Women (by a late Act of Parliament) have (in a manner) the benefit of their Clergy, tho' not so much as put to Read; for in such cases where the men are allow'd it; the Women are of course siz'd in the Fist, without running the risque of a Halter by not Reading.

1710. *Old Song* (in *British Apollo*). If a clerk had been taken For stealing of bacon, For burglary, murder, or rape. If he could but rebearse (Well prompt) his NECK-VERSE, He never could fail to escape.

1725. *New Cant. Dict.*, s.v.

1755. JOHNSON, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*. The . . . NECK VERSE . . . was the first verse of the fifty-first psalm, *Miserere mei*, etc.

c. 1816. *Old Song*, 'The Night Before Larry was Stretched,' [Farmer, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 79]. For the NECKCLOTH I don't care a button.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v.

1859. MATSELL, *Vocabulary*, s.v.

1877. J. H. BEADLE, *Western Wilds* [BARTLETT]. He joined the Vigilantes, and had the pleasure of presiding at a NECKTIE SOCIABLE where two of the men who had robbed him were hanged.

1886. *Notes and Queries*, 7 S., ii., 98. NECKINGER is nothing more than neckerchief, but implies, I think, its proximity to a place of execution, the Devil's Neckerchief on the way to Redriffe, which sign would further imply that it was euphemistic or slang for the gallows, the rope, or the hempen collar.

2. (old colloquial). — To swallow. Also to WASH THE NECK.—BEE (1823).

NECK AND CROP, *adv.* (colloquial).—See quot., 1823.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, etc., s.v. NECK AND CROP. Turn him out NECK AND CROP, is to push one forth all of a heap, down some steps or stairs being understood, so that the patient may pitch upon his neck (or head).

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick* (1857), 125. When I was first pitched NECK AND CROP into the world to play at leap frog with its troubles, replied Sam.

1847. LYTTON, *Lucretia*, II., xx. I was a-thinking of turning her out NECK AN' CROP.

NECK OR NOTHING, *adv.* (colloquial).—At every risk; desperately.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversations*, I. NECK OR NOTHING; come down or I'll fetch you down.

1731. FIELDING, *Grub Street Opera*, II. 4. It is always NECK OR NOTHING with you.

1747. *Gentleman Instructed*, 526. The world is stock'd with NECK OR NOTHING; with men that will make over by retail an estate of a thousand pound per annum to a lawyer in expectation of being pleaded into another of two hundred.

1766. GARRICK, *Neck or Nothing* [Title].

1842. DICKENS, *American Notes*, IV., 38. And dashes on haphazard, pell-mell, NECK-OR-NOTHING, down the middle of the road.

1870. *Daily News*, 31 Mar. 'On Acrobats.' It must be literally NECK OR NOTHING with him, neck or 35s. per week.

1896. SALA, *London Up to Date*, 39. We resolved for once on a NECK-OR-NOTHING outing.

NECK AND NECK, *adv.* (colloquial).—Close; almost equal: as horses in a race.

1861-2. EARL STANHOPE, *Life of Pitt*, xxii. After two NECK AND NECK votes the same evening, the final numbers were 54 against 54.

1864. *London Society*, Oct., 389. Number 1 waltzes all round her affections, but No. 2 sings like 'ten cherubs,' and he finds her out at concerts, and comes to five o'clock tea. It is NECK-AND-NECK between Nos. 1 and 2.

ON (OR IN) THE NECK OF, *phr.* (colloquial).—Close upon, or behind.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, I *Henry IV.*, IV., 3. And in THE NECK OF that tasked the whole state.

1775. ASH, *Dict.*, s.v., NECK . . . ON THE NECK, immediately after.

TO WIN (OR LOSE) BY A NECK, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To win (or lose) by next to nothing.

TO BREAK THE NECK OF ANYTHING, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To get the worst part done: see quot.

1775. ASH, *Dict.*, s.v. NECK . . . TO BREAK THE NECK, to do more than half, to hinder from being done.

TO BE SHOT IN THE NECK, *verb. phr.* (American).—To be drunk. See DRINKS and SCREWED.

1855. *Brooklyn Journal*, 18 April. Mr. Schumacher defended his client by observing that some of the prisoners' attorneys got as often SHOT IN THE NECK as the Under-Sheriff did in the head.

UNABLE TO NECK IT, *phr.* (colloquial).—Lacking moral courage.

Also see SHUT.

NECK-BEEF. AS COARSE AS NECK-BEEF, *phr.* (common).—Very coarse; of the poorest quality. As *subs.* = a general synonym for coarseness.

NECK-OIL, *subs.* (old).—Drink; LAP (*q.v.*).

NECK-STAMPER, *subs. phr.* (old).—See quotes.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NECK-STAMPER. The Pot-Boy at a Tavern or Ale-house.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. NECK-STAMPER, the boy who collects the pots belonging to an ale-house, sent out with beer to private houses.

NECTAR, *subs.* (common).—Drink ; LAP (*q.v.*).

NED, *subs.* (old).—A guinea : America a 10 dollar piece. HALF A NED=half a guinea or 5 dollar piece. Also NEDDY. See CANARY.

1754. *Discoveries of John Poulter*, 41. They ask change for a NED or six.

1789. PARKER, *Life's Painter*, 'The Happy Pair.' With spunk let's post our NEDDIES.

1859. MATSELL, *Vocabulum*, s.v. HALF A NED. A 5 dollar gold piece.

1882. MCCABE, *New York*, xxxiv., 509, s.v.

2. See NEDDY.

NEDASH, *phr.* (old).—See quot., 1823.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. NEDASH, of no use. *Ibid.* Nothing.

NEDDY, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. An ass ; a MOKE (*q.v.*). Also NED : see MOKE.

1658. ROWLEY, TOURNEUR, etc., *Witch of Edmonton* [SOUTHEY'S *Common-place Book*, ii., 447]. The ass was called Tom, as well as Jack and NEDDY.

1790. WOLCOT [P. Pindar], *Rowland for an Oliver* [Wks. (Dublin, 1794), ii., 412.] But, Peter, thou art mounted on a NEDDY : Or, in the London phrase—thou Devonshire Monkey, Thy Tegasus is nothing but a Donkey.

1818. EGAN, *Boxiana*, i., 35. Coster mongers, in droves, were seen mounting their NEDDIES.

2. (colloquial).—A fool ; a DONKEY (*q.v.*). See BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. NEDDY—sometimes Ass-neger, other names for jackass—the living emblem of patience and long suffering.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, i. All types of all characters march through all fables ; tremblers and boasters ; victims and bullies ; dupes and knaves ; long-eared NEDDIES, giving themselves leonine airs.

3. (Irish).—A large quantity ; plenty. Fr. *hugrement* ; *la foultitude* (*subs.*) ; and *gourdement*.

4. (thieves').—See quot. Fr. *un tourne-clef*.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. Billy ; cosh ; colt.

1864. *Cornhill Mag.*, vi., 647. Pistols are seldom carried by them ; the weapon is generally a NEDDY or life-preserver.

1879. J. W. HORSLEY [*Macm. Mag.*, xl., 503]. He said, We shall want . . . the stick (iron-bar), and bring a NEDDIE (life-preserver) with you.

1884. *Referee*, 21 Dec., 1, 2. If husbands left off kicking their wives to death . . . and if the NEDDY and knuckle-duster went suddenly out of fashion.

1897. BREWER, *Phrase and Fable*, s.v. NEDDY. A life-preserver ; so called from one Kennedy, whose head was broken in St. Giles's by a poker.

5. See NED.

NED-FOOL, *subs.* (old).—A noisy idiot. See JACK (*subs.*, sense 8).

1600. NASHE, *Summer's Last Will* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1874), viii., 61]. NED fool's clothes are . . . perfumed with the beer he poured on me.

NED STOKES, *subs.* (old provincial). See quot.

1791. *Gent. Mag.*, lxi., 141. The Queen of Clubs is here [Lincs.] called *Queen Bess* . . . the Four of Spades, NED STOKES, for why I don't know.

NEEDFUL (THE), *subs.* (common).—Money. See RHINO.

1771. FOOTE, *Maid of Bath*, ii. Then I will straight set about getting THE NEEDFUL.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, i., iv. The diamond necklace . . . did not operate more strongly . . . than the poor woman's flat-iron to raise THE NEEDFUL.

1836. *Comic Almanack*, 45, 'Transfer day.' Needy men THE NEEDFUL need.

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxxviii. I *passed*, soon after that precious party, and my friends came down with THE NEEDFUL for this business.

1857. HOOD, *Pen and Pencil Pictures*, 153. Let me have the pleasure of lending an old college-mate some of THE NEEDFUL!

1864. *Eton School Days*, i., 3. Good-bye. Here's a supply of THE NEEDFUL.

1889. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 8 Feb. Searching for THE NEEDFUL to satisfy so just a demand.

1900. *Free Lance*, 6 Oct., 20, 1. I am glad to take anything that comes along, even if it is only ten per. Someone had to get THE NEEDFUL, you know.

NEEDHAM. ON THE HIGH-ROAD TO NEEDHAM, *phr.* (old).—See quot. Cf. PECKHAM, LAND OF NOD, BEDFORDSHIRE, Etc.

1670. RAY, *Proverbs* [BOHN], 221. You are ON THE HIGH-WAY TO NEEDHAM. Needham is a market-town in this county [Suffolk]; according to the wit of the vulgar, they are said to be in the high-way thither which do hasten to poverty.

NEEDLE, subs. (old). — 1. A sharper; a thief.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, 138. Amongst the NEEDLES at the West end of the town.

2. (venery).—The *penis*: see PRICK. Whence NEEDLE-WOMAN = a harlot (see quot. 1849).

1632. NABBES, *Covent Garden*, i., 6. *Susan*. The loadstone of my heart . . . pointing still to the North of your love. *Jeffery*. Indeed, mistress, 'tis a cold corner; pray turne it to the South, and let my NEEDLE run in your DIALL.

c.1680. EARL OF DORSET, *Poems*, 'On Dolly Chamberlain.' In revenge I will stitch Up the hole next her breech, With a NEEDLE as long as my arm.

d.1680. ROCHESTER, *Poems*, 'A Satire which the King took out of his Pocket.' The seaman's NEEDLE nimbly points the pole; But thine still turns to ev'ry craving hole.

c.1720. DURFEE, *Pills to Purge*, vi., 91. But if by chance a Flaw I find, In dressing of the Leather; I straightway whip my NEEDLE out, And I tack 'em close together.

1849. CARLYLE, *Nigger Question* [Cent. ed. xxix. 366]. We have thirty thousand distressed NEEDLEWOMEN . . . who cannot sew at all . . . on the street with five hungry senses.

Verb. (common).—1. To annoy; to irritate; TO RILE (*q.v.*). To GIVE (or GET) THE NEEDLE = to annoy (or be annoyed).

1881. G. R. SIMS, *Dagonet Ballads* (*Polly*). There, he's off! the young war-mint, he's NEEDLED.

1884. *Daily Telegraph*, 4 Sept., 2. I felt a bit NEEDLED at the sort of sneering way Teedy had spoken.

1887. *Punch*, 30 July, 45. It GIVE 'im THE NEEDLE in course, being left in the lurch in this way.

1889. *Sporting Times*, 3 Aug., 3, 1. He's seen a girl, one of his old flames, pass the door. He doesn't want to NEEDLE her, as she's a good little sort.

1891. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 3 April. This seemed to NEEDLE Gideon, who, determined not to be outdone, offered 900 to 100 on the field.

1897. *Evening Standard*, 24 Dec., 4, 5. When one, or both, of two proficient antagonists at any sport have TAKEN THE NEEDLE . . . the result, nine times out of ten, is an improvement in the exhibition.

1898. *Illustrated Bits*, Xmas No., 50. Then Maudie GETS THE NEEDLE, and she jumps across the floor, And ketches me a fair ole rousin' socker on the jore.

2. (old).—To haggle over a bargain.—VAUX (1819).

Also see SPANISH NEEDLE; ST. PETER'S NEEDLE, Knight.

NEEDLE-AND-THREAD, subs. phr. (rhyming).—Broad.

NEEDLE-BOOK (or -CASE), *subs.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

NEEDLE-DODGER, subs. (common).—A dress-maker.

NEEDLE - POINT, *subs.* (old).—
A sharper : also **NEEDLE-
POINTER**.—B.E. (c. 1696); GROSE
(1785); VAUX (1819); *Ency.
Dict.* (1885).

NEEDY - MIZZLER (or **NEEDY**),
subs. (tramps').—*See* quot. 1823.
Hence **NEEDY-MIZZLING**.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN],
s.v. **NEEDY MIZZLER**. A poor ragged
object of either sex.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, III. v.
Though a **NEEDY MIZZLER** myself, I like
to see a cove voi's vel dressed.

1868. *Temple Bar*, xxiv., 536. His
game is **NEEDY-MIZZLING**. He'll go with-
out a shirt, perhaps, and beg one from
house to house. *Ibid.* **NEEDY-MIZZLERS**,
mumpers, shallow-coves.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippe*, xiv.
All I get is my kip and a clean mill tog, a
pair of pollies and a stoock, and what few
medazas I can make out of the lodgers and
NEEDIES.

NEEL, *adj.* (back - slang). —
Lean.

NE'ER - BE - LICKIT, *subs.* (col-
loquial Scots).—*See* quot.

1885. *Encycl. Dict.*, s.v. **NE'ER-BE-
LICKIT**. Nothing which could be licked
by a dog or cat; nothing whatever.

NE'ER - DO - WELL, *subs.* (collo-
quial).—*See* quot.

1885. *Encycl. Dict.*, s.v. **NE'ER-DO-
WELL**. One who is never likely to do
well.

Adj. (colloquial).—Incorrigible.

1898. LE QUEUX, *Scribes and
Pharisees*, v. His two cousins . . .
looked on the **NE'ER-DO-WELL** student as
an interloper.

NEERGS, *subs.* (back - slang). —
Greens.

NEGLEDIGEE, *subs.* (old). — *See*
quot.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, [EGAN],
s.v. **NEGLEGEE**. A woman's undressed
gown, vulgarly termed a **NEGLEDIGEE**.

NEGOTIATE, *verb.* (colloquial).—
To contrive; to accomplish.

1891. *Sporting Life*, 18 Mar. They
pulled themselves together, and ultimately
NEGOTIATED Hammersmith Bridge in
better style.

1891. *Daily Chronicle*, 20 Mar. The
other two—who also **NEGOTIATED** the same
distance, namely, a mile and a half—went
together as usual.

1892. MILLIKEN, *'Avry Ballads*, 32.
To see him **NEGOTIATE** corners was one of
the loveliest sights.

1897. KENNARD, *Girl in Brown
Habit*, ii. She had **NEGOTIATED** the
obstacle all right, but if we had happened
to come to grief, I should have blamed
myself a little.

NEGRO, *subs.* (old : now recog-
nised).—A black man; a slave.—
GROSE (1785).

NEGRO-HEAD, *subs.* (nautical).—
A brown loaf.—GROSE (1796).

NEGRO - NOS'D, *adj.* (old : now
recognised).—Flat-nosed.—B. E.
(c. 1696).

NEIGHBOURLY, *adj.* (old : now
recognised).—Friendly; obliging.
—*Dict. Cant. Crew* (1696).

NEMAN, *subs.* (American thieves').
—Stealing.—MATSELL (1859).

NENTI, *adv.* (circus).—Nothing :
cf. **NANTIE**.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippe*, xx.
I gets sixteen bob a week . . . and I get
my kip for **NENTI** here for helping old
Blower tidy up.

NEPHEW, *subs.* (common). —
The illegitimate son of a priest :
see **NIECE**.

1847. RUXTON, *Far West*, 145. They
were probably his nieces and **NEPHEWS**—
a class of relations often possessed in num-
bers by priests and monks.

NESTLING, *subs.* (old: now recognised).—*See* quot. 1696.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NESTLING, Canary-Birds brought up by Hand.

1728. BAILEY, *Dict.*, s.v.

TO KEEP A NESTLING, *verb. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NESTLING. What a NESTLING you keep, how restless and uneasy you are.

NESTOR, *subs.* (Winchester College).—An undersized boy.

NET. ALL IS FISH THAT COMES TO NET, *phr.* (colloquial).—All serves the purpose.

1670. RAY, *Proverbs* [BOHN], 160, s.v.

1830. BUCKSTONE, *Wreck Ashore*, ii., 4. We are not on one of our Spanish Islands, where ALL'S FISH THAT COMES TO NET.

NETGEN, *subs.* (back - slang).—Half a sovereign: *see* RHINO [NET=tēn+GEN (*q.v.*)=a shilling].

NETHER - END (or -EYE), *subs.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE. Whence NETHER-EYEBROWS (WHISKERS or LASHES)=the pubic hair; NETHER-LIPS=the *labia majora*; NETHER-WORK=groping or copulation.

1382. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, Miller's Tale, 666 [SKEAT (1895), i., v., 111]. Thus swyyed was the carpenteres wyf, For al his keping and his Ialousye; and Absolon bath kist hir NETHER YE.

d.1749. ROBERTSON OF STRUAN, *Poems*, 126. At th'upper End she Cracks her Nuts, While at the NETHER END her Honour.

NETHERLANDS (THE), *subs.* (venery).—A man's or woman's underparts.

NETTLE, *verb.* (common).—To annoy; to provoke; TO RILE (*q.v.*); TO NEEDLE (*q.v.*). TO HAVE PISSED ON A NETTLE=to be peevish or out of temper; NETTLED=(1) annoyed, and (2) afflicted (Amer. MATSELL, 1859); NETTLER=asPOIL-TEMPER (*q.v.*).—B.E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

a.1592. GREENE, *George a Greene*, 397 [GROSART, *Works* (1886), xiv., 139]. There are few fellows in our parish so NETLED with loue as I haue bene of late.

1625. MASSINGER, *Parliament of Love*, iii., 1. *Nov.* We have NETTLED him. *Peri.* Had we stung him to death, it were but justice.

1641. MILTON, *Animad. upon the Remons. Def.*, etc. But these are the NETTLERS, these are the blabbing books that tell.

1767. FAWKES, *Theocritus*, Idyl 5. I've NETTLED somebody full sore.

1847. TENNYSON, *Princess*, i., 161. I, tho' NETTLED that he seem'd to slur . . . Our formal compact.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, iii., 221. Of course he was NETTLED.

1895. MARRIOTT-WATSON [*New Review*, July 2]. As for that, I said, for I was NETTLED at his sneering.

NETTLE IN, DOCK OUT, *phr.* (old).—Fickleness of purpose; thing after thing; place after place.

1369. CHAUCER, *Troi. and Cres.*, v. NETTLE IN, DOCK OUT, now this, now that, Pandare?

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NETTLED. IN DOCK, OUT NETTLE, upon the change of Places, when one is no sooner out, but another is in his Place.

Also *see* ROSE.

NETTLE-BED, *subs.* (children's).—*See* quot.: *cf.* PARSLEY-BED and GOOSEBERRY-BUSH: *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

1875. *Notes and Queries*, 5 S., iii., 'Babies in Folk-lore.' In England every little girl knows that male babies come from the NETTLE-BED, and the female ones from the parsley-bed.

NEWCOME, *subs.* (common). — A new arrival; a fresh face: as a freshman at college; a new midshipman; a new baby. Also JOHNNIE NEWCOME.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London, Nocturnal Hells*. There were some NEWCOMES. [The name given to any new faces or persons among the usual visitants in a gambling house].

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf, etc.*, s.v. NEWCOME JOHNNY.

NEW-DROP, *subs.* (old). — See quot.

1788. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. NEW DROP. The scaffold used at Newgate for hanging criminals; which dropping down, leaves them suspended. By this improvement, the use of that vulgar vehicle, a cart, is entirely left off.

NEW ENGLAND OF THE WEST, *subs. phr.* (American). — The State of Minnesota. [Many New Englanders settled there].

NEWGATE, *subs.* (old). — A gaol: specifically the prison for the City of London: see quots. 1592 and 1823. Also NEWMAN'S HOTEL (or TEA-GARDENS: MAN'S (Old Cant.) = a place). Hence, NEWGATE-BIRD (or NEWGATE-NIGHTINGALE = a thief, sharper, or gaol-bird; NEWGATE (or TYBURN) COLLAR, FRINGE, or FRILL = a collar-like beard worn under the chin; NEWGATE-FRISK = a hanging; NEWGATE-KNOCKER = a lock of hair like the figure 6, twisted from the temple back towards the ear (chiefly in vogue 1840-50 — see AGGERAWATORS); NEWGATE-RING = moustache and beard as one, without whiskers; NEWGATE-SAINT = a condemned criminal; TO DANCE THE NEWGATE-HORNSPIPE = to be hanged; NEWGATE-SOLICITOR = a pettifogging attorney; BORN ON NEW-

GATE-STEPS = of thievish origin; AS BLACK AS NEWGATE = very black; NEWGATE SEIZE ME = 'the gaol be my portion'; NEWMAN'S-LIFT = the gallows.

c.1531. COPLAND, *Hyeway to Spytell-hous* [HAZLITT, *Pop. Poet.*, iv., 41]. By my fayth, NYGHTVNGALES OF NEWGATE: These be they that dayly walkes and jettes.

1592. NASH, *Pierce Penilesse* . . . NEWGATE . . . a common name for all prisons as *homo* is a common name for a man or woman.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, i *Henry IV.*, iii., 3. Must we all march? Yes, two and two, NEWGATE FASHION.

1607. DEKKER, *Jests* [GROSART, *Works* (1886), ii., 343]. Our NEWGATE-BIRD . . . spreading his Dragon-like wings, . . . beheld a thousand Synnes.

1677. THOMAS OTWAY, *Cheats of Scapin*, i., 1. NEWGATE-BIRD . . . what a trick hast thou played me in my absence.

1732. OZELL, *Miser*, i., 3. Out of my House, thou sworn Master-Catpurse, true NEWGATE-BIRD.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. NEWMAN'S-HOTEL.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf, etc.*, s.v. NEWGATE. A house of entertainment for rogues of every description. . . . The name itself has been . . . naturalized in Dublin, as also in Manchester, where the sessions-house is modernized into New Bailey. The old building . . . stood across the entrance to Newgate Street; and probably had its name from . . . having been the newest of all the gates that then choked up the accesses to the metropolis. *Ibid.* NEWGATE STEPS, figurative for a low or thievish origin. Before 1780, these steps . . . were much frequented by rogues and w—s connected with the inmates of that place: some might be said to have received their education there, if not their birth. *Ibid.* AS BLACK AS NEWGATE is said of a street Lady's lowering countenance, or of her muslin-dress, when either is changed from the natural serene. *Ibid.* NEWGATE SEIZE ME IF I DO, THERE NOW! is an asseveration of the most binding nature, when both parties may be following the same course of life.

1829. MAGINN, *The Pickpocket's Chaunt* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 105], xiii. And we shall caper a-heel and toeing a NEWGATE HORNSPIPE some fine day.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversations*, i. Miss. Lord! Mr. *Neverout*, you are as pert as a Pearmonger this Morning. *Neverout*. Indeed, Miss, you are very handsome. Miss. Poh! I know that already; TELL ME NEWS.

NEW SETTLEMENTS, *subs. phr.* (old Oxford Univ.).—See quot.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. NEW SETTLEMENTS, Final reckoning.

NEWTOWN-PIPPIN, *subs. (common)*.—A cigar: see WEED.

NEWY, *subs. (Winchester College)*.—The 'cad' paid to look after the canvas tent in 'Commoner' field.

NEW YORK GRAB, *subs. phr. (American)*.—

1858. W. W. PRATT, *Ten Nights in a Bar-room*, i, 1. First throw, or NEW YORK GRAB?

N.F., *subs. (printers')*.—A knowing tradesman. [An abbreviation of 'no flies'].

N.G., *phr. (common)*.—'No go'; 'no good'; of no avail.

1888. *Cincinnati Weekly Gazette*, 22 Feb. His claim was N.G.

N.H. (That is, NORFOLK HOWARD), *subs. phr. (common)*.—A bug. [From one Bugg who, it is said, so changed his name in 1863].

NIAS, *subs. (old)*.—A simpleton. [From the Fr. *niais*].

1616. BEN JONSON, *The Devil's an Ass*, i, 3. Laugh'd at, sweet bird! Is that the scruple? come, come, Thou art a NIAISE.

NIB (or NIB-COVE), *subs. (beggars')*.—1. A gentleman. Whence HALF-NIBS=one who apes gentility (Fr. *un herz*); NIBLIKE (or NIBSOME)=gentlemanly; NIB-SOMEST-CRIBS=the best houses.—VAUX (1819); GROSE (1823). Cf. NIBS.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, iii, v. He's a rank nib. *Ibid.* And ne'er was there seen such a dashing prig, . . . All my togs were so NIBLIKE.

1839. REYNOLDS, *Pickwick Abroad*, 223. Betray his pals in a NIBSOME game.

2. See NEB.

3. (printers').—A fool.

Verb. (old).—1. To catch; to arrest; to NAB (*q.v.*).—VAUX (1819); GOOSE (1823).

2. See NIBBLE.

NIBBLE, *verb. (old)*.—1. To catch; to steal. Also to cheat. Whence NIBBLER (or NIBBING-CULL)=a petty thief or fraudulent dealer: see quot., 1819.

1608. MIDDLETON, *Trick to Catch the Old One*, i, 4. The rogue has spied me now: he NIBBLED me finely once.

1775. *Old Song* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 54]. FOR NIBBING CULLS I always hate.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v. NIBBLE, to pilfer trifling articles, not having spirit to touch anything of consequence.

1823. BEE, *Dich. Turf, etc.*, s.v. NIBBLE. I only NIBBLED half a bull for my regulars [=I only got a half-crown for my share]. There now I feel you NIBBLING: said by thieves when they are teaching each other to pick pockets.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. NIBBLER. A pilferer, or petty thief.

1842. W. T. MONCRIEFF, *The Scamps of London*, iii, 1. You are spliced—NIBBLED at last—well, I wish you joy.

2. (venery).—To copulate. Also TO DO A NIBBLE. See GREENS and RIDE.

3. (colloquial).—To consider a bargain, or an opportunity, eagerly but carefully: as a fish considers bait.

TO GET A NIBBLE, *verb. phr. (tailors')*.—To get an easy job.

1696. AUBREY, *Miscel.*, 50. This dream . . . made him get up very early; he NICKED the time, and met with the waggoner just at the very door, and asked him what he had in his cart.

1691-2. *Gentlemen's Journal*, Jan., p. 39. It seems he NICK'D the critical moment.

1714. LUCAS, *Gamesters*, 62. He conjur'd that Beldam to NICK the opportunity.

1823. MONCRIEFF, *Tom & Jerry* [DICK], p. 6. *Tom*. You've NICKED it; the fact is this, Dicky—you must turn missionary. Here is a young native from the country, just caught, whom you must civilize.

1831. C. LAMB, *Satan in Search of a Wife*, i., xii. 'I wish my Nicky is not in love'—'O mother, you have NICKED it'—And he turn'd his head aside with a blush.

1883. *Field*, 21 Jan. The white [greyhound] NICKED up on the inside for two or three wrenches.

1891. *Sporting Life*, 26 March. As he interfered with Innisbeen, it perhaps saved an objection when the latter just NICKED the verdict by the shortest of heads.

8. (old).—To nickname.

1634. FORD, *Perkin Warbeck*, iv., 3. Warbeck, as you NICK him, came to me.

1689. *Princess of Cleve*. Believe me, sir, in a little time you'll be NICK'D the town-bull.

9. (old).—To catch; to arrest.

1700. CIBBER, *Love Makes a Man*, v., 3. Well, madam, you see I'm punctual—you've NICK'D your man, faith.

1759. TOWNLEY, *High Life Below Stairs*, ii., 1. You have just NICKED them in the very minute.

d.1817. HOLMAN, *Abroad and at Home*, ii., 3. He had NICKED his man, and accosted me accordingly. We lost one another in the crowd, and he departed in his error.

1835. SKLBY, *Catching an Heiress*, 1. I've NICKED it!

1836. MARKYAT, *Japhet*, lvii. That is the other fellow who attacked me, and ran away. He has come to get off his accomplice, and now we've just NICKED them both.

1841. LYTTON, *Night and Morning*, ii., iv. I must be off—*tempus fugit*, and I must arrive just in time to NICK the vessels. Shall get to Ostend or Rotterdam, safe and snug; thence to Paris.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lipppo*, xvii. I found my way back to Westminster, got palled in with a lot more boys, done a bit of gonoffing or anything to get some posh, but it got too hot, all my pals got NICKED, and I chucked it and done a bit of costering and that's how I lost my eye.

1896. FARJEON, *Betray. of John Fordham*, iii. 279. Louis had plenty of money to sport; e'd been backin' winners. Maxwell 'ad been NICKED the other way through backin' losers.

10. (common).—To compare or jump with.

1887. BURY and HILLIER, *Cycling*, 227. Only one sport NICKS with cycling.

11. (old).—To indent a beer can; to falsify a measure by indenting and frothing up.

1628. *Life of Robin Goodfellow* [HALLIWELL]. There was a tapster, that with his pots smallnesse, and with frothing of his drinke, had got a good somme of money together. This NICKING of his pots he would never leave.

c.1636. *London Chanticleers*, Sc. 5. The sleights of NICKING and frothing he scorns as too common.

12 (venery).—To copulate : see GREENS and RIDE.

TO NICK THE PIN, *verb. phr.* (old).—To drink fairly.—B. E. (c. 1696).

TO KNOCK A NICK IN THE POST, *verb. phr.* (old).—See quot.

1847. HALLIWELL, *Archaic & Prov. Words*, s.v. NICK. TO KNOCK A NICK IN THE POST, i.e., to make a record of any remarkable event. This is evidently an ancient method of recording.

OUT OF ALL NICK, *adv. phr.* (old).—Past counting.

1595. SHAKESPEARE, *Two Gent.*, iv., 2. I tell you what Launce, his man, told me, he lov'd her OUT OF ALL NICK.

OUT ON THE NICK, *phr.* (thieves').—Out thieving; ON THE PINCH (*q.v.*).

TO NICK WITH NAY, *verb. phr.* (old).—To deny.

1350. *William of Palerne*, (E. E. T. S.), 4145. Zif sche NICKES WITH NAY & nel nouzt com sone.

[?] *Romance of Athelstone*. On her knees they kneleden adoun, And prayden hym off hys benysoun: he NVKKVD HEM WITH NAY.

1820. SCOTT, *Abbot*, xxxviii. As I have but one boon to ask, I trust you will not NICK me WITH NAY.

NICKS. See NIX.

NICKEL, *subs.* (American).—A five-cent piece.

1857. *New York Herald*, 27 May. The new cent creates quite a *furor*. It is a neat, handy coin, and will soon supplant the cumbersome copper one. 'Nary red' will soon be an obsolete phrase among the boys, and 'nary NICKEL' will take its place.

NICKER, *subs.* (old).—A DANDY (*q.v.*).

NICKERERS, *subs. pl.* (Scots').—'A cant term for new shoes.'—JAMIESON (1808).

NICKERIES, *subs. pl.* (old).—'NICKERIES are the same [as Nick-names] applied to actions and things. or *quid pro quo*.'—BEE (1823).

NICKEY. See NIKIN and OLD NICK.

NICK-NACK, *subs.* (old : now recognised).—1. A trifle; a toy; a curio. Also KNICK-KNACK. See KNACK. sense 2. Hence, NICK-NACKATORY, NICK-NACKERY and NICK-NACKY. —GROSE (1785).

1580. G. HARVEY, *Two Other Letters, &c.*, in *Wks.* (GROSART), i., 80. Jugling castes and KNICKKNACKES, in comparison of these.

1618. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Loyal Subject*, ii., 1. But if ye use these KNICK-KNACKS, This fast and loose, with faithful men and honest, You'll be the first will find it.

d. 1682. T. BROWN, in *Works* (1760), ii., 15. For my part, I keep a KNICK-NACKATORY or toy-shop.

1726. *Terra Filius*, No. 34, ii., 183. I went with two or three friends, who were members of the University, to the museum, vulgarly called the NICK-NACK-ATORY.

1750. FIELDING, *Tom Jones*, viii., x. Besides the extraordinary neatness of the room, it was adorned with a great number of NICKKNACKS, and curiosities, which might have engaged the attention of a virtuoso.

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, v., 71 (ed. 1812). I know he has judgement in NICK-KNACKATORIES, and even as much as I wish him in what is called taste.

1790. MORISON, *Poems*, 458. And in the kist, twa webs of wholesome claith; Some ither NICK NACKS, sic as pot and pan, Cogues, caps, and spoons, I at a raffle wan.

1824. MISS FERRIER, *Inheritance*, i., 86. His dressing-room is a perfect show, so neat and NICK-NACKY.

1849. LYTTON, *Caxtons*, i., iv. One of those fancy stationers common in country towns, and who sell all kinds of pretty toys and NICK-NACKS.

1876. HINDLEY, *Adventures of a Cheap Jack*, 7. Chimney ornaments and her sideboard NICK-NACKERY on the Pembroke table.

2 (venery).—The female *pu-dendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

3. in *pl.* (venery).—The *testes*; CODS (*q.v.*).

NICKNAME, *subs.* (old : now recognised).—A name invented in derision, contempt, or reproach. [M. E. *an ekename* = an agnomen]. —GROSE (1785); BEE (1823).

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xvi. A very good name it [Job] is; only one I know that aint got a NICKNAME to it.

Verb. (colloquial).—To miscall in contempt, derision, or reproach.

NICK-NINNY, *subs. phr.* (old).—A flat-catcher.—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

NICK-POT, *subs.* (old).—A stealer of publican's pots.

1602. ROWLANDS, *Green's Ghost*, 22. A necessarie caveat for victuallers and NICK-POTS.

NICKUM, *subs.* (old).—See quot.

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NICKUM. A sharper; also a Rooking Ale-house or Innkeeper, Vintner, or any Retailer.

NICKUMPOOP. See NINCUMPOOP.

NIDDICOCK, *subs.* (old).—A fool.

1587. HOLINSHED, *Disc. of Ireland*, G. 3, col. 1 a. They were never such fond NIDDICOCKES as to offer any man a rodde to beate their owne tayles.

1654. GAYTON, *Festivous Notes*, p. 61. Oh, Chrysostome, thou . . . deservest to be stak'd as well as buried in the open fields, for being such a goose, widgeon, and NIDDECOCK, to dye for love. *Ibid.* Shee was just such another NIDDECOCK as Joan Gutierrez.

NIDDIPOL, *subs.* (old).—A fool.

1583. STANYHURST, *Vigil: Æneid*, iv., 110. What NIDDIPOL hare brayne.

NIDGET. See NIGIT.

NIECE, *subs.* (common).—A priest's illegitimate daughter, or concubine: whence the expression, 'No more character than a priest's NIECE.'

1848. RUXTON, *Life in the Far West*, p. 145. They were probably his NIECES.

NIFFNAFFY, *adj.* (old).—Fastidious; trifling.—GROSE (1785).

1815. SCOTT, *Guy Mannering*, xlv. NIFF-NAFFY gentles that gae sac muckle fast wi' their fancies.

NIFTY, *adj.* (American).—Conspicuous; smart.

1869. S. L. CLEMENS ('Mark Twain'), *The Innocents at Home*, ii. He was always NIFTY himself, and so you bet his funeral ain't going to be no slouch.

NIG, *subs.* in *pl.* (old).—1. The clippings of money. Also NIG, *verb.* = to clip money.—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

2. (American).—A negro. [Abbreviation of 'nigger']. See SNOWBALL.

1839. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxviii., 248. Some of the little NIGS have no clothes at all.

3. (back-slang).—Gin. See DRINKS and WHITE SATIN.

Verb. (old).—1. To catch. See NAB and NICK.

1754. *Scoundrel's Dict.* Tho' he tips them the Pikes they NIG him again.

2. (venery).—See NIGGLE.

3. (American).—To revoke: at cards. Also RE-NIG.

NIGGER. **NIGGER IN THE FENCE**, *subs. phr.* (American).—An underhand design, motive, or purpose.

NIGGER-BABY, *subs. phr.* (American Civil War).—A monster projectile: as used at the siege of Charleston. [Attributed to General Hardie of the Confederate Army]. See SWAMP ANGEL.

NIGGER-DRIVING, *subs.* (colloquial).—Exhausting with work.

1880. G. R. SIMS, *Three Brass Balls*, Pledge xiv. In the worst days of American slavery never was there such NIGGER-DRIVING as that practised systematically by the wholesale drapery trade.

NIGGER-LUCK, *subs. phr.* (American).—Very good fortune.

1888. *The Critic*, 14 Ap. I am cussed, he howled to a crowd of his own stripe, if any darned rebel can have such NIGGER LUCK and enjoy it while I live. You can bet I'll soon settle that.

NIGGER-SPIT, *subs. phr.* (popular).—The half-candied lumps in cane sugar.

NIGGLE (or **NIG**), *verb.* (old).—1. See *quots.*, **GREENS** and **RIDE**. Also **NIGGLING**, *subs.* = Copulation.—**B. E.** (c. 1696); **GROSE** (1785).

1567. **HARMAN**, *Caveat* (1814), p. 66. To **NYGLE**, to have to do with a woman carnally.

1608. **DEKKER**, *Lanthorne and Candlelight* [**GROSART**, *Works* (1886), iii., 203]. If we **NIGGLE**, or mill a bowzing **Ken**.

1610. **ROWLANDS**, *Martin Mark-all*, p. 39 (**H. Club's Rept. 1874). **NIGLING**, company keeping with a woman: this word is not used now, but *wapping*, and thereof comes the name *wapping morts*, **Whoores**.**

1612. **DEKKER**, '*Bing out, bien Morts*,' v. [**FARMER**, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), ii.]. And *wapping Dell* that **NIGGLES** well, and takes loure for her hire.

1641. **BROME**, *Jovial Crew* [**FARMER**, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 25]. The autumn-mort finds better sport In bowzing than in **NIGLING**.

2. (common).—To trifle. Also **NIGGLING** = trifling.—**GROSE** (1785).

1632. **MASSINGER**, *Emperor of the East*, v., 3. Take heed, daughter, You **NIGGLE** not with your conscience.

3. (artists').—To attend excessively to detail; to work on a small scale, with a small brush, to a small purpose.

1883. **W. BLACK**, *Yolande*, ch. xlix. Do you think Mr. Meteyard could get that portrait of you finished off to-day? Bless my soul, it wasn't to have been a portrait at all!—it was only to have been a sketch. And he has kept on **NIGGLING** and **NIGGLING** away at it—why?

NIGHT, *subs.* (old).—Combinations are **NIGHT-BIRD** (*q.v.*); **NIGHT-CAP** (*q.v.*); **NIGHT-FOSSICKER** (Australian mining)=a nocturnal thief of quartz or dust: whence

NIGHT-FOSSICKING; **NIGHT-GEAR** (or **-PIECE**)=a bedfellow, male or female; **NIGHT-HAWK** (**-HUNTER**, **-SNAP**, or **-TRADER**) = **NIGHT-BIRD** (*q.v.*); **NIGHT-HOUSE** = (1) a public-house licensed to open at night, and (2) a brothel; **NIGHT-HUNTER**=(1) a poacher, and (2) a **NIGHT-BIRD** (*q.v.*); **NIGHT-JURY** = a band of night brawlers: **NIGHT-MAGISTRATE** = (1) the head of a watch-house, whence (2) a constable; **NIGHT-MAN** = see *quot.*, 1785, and **GOLD-FINDER**; **NIGHT-PHYSIC** (or **-WORK**) = copulation: **NIGHT-RALE** (or **-RAIL**) = (1) night apparel, and (2) a combing-cloth; **NIGHT-SHADE** = **NIGHT-BIRD**, 2 (*q.v.*); **NIGHT-SNEAKER** = see *quot.*, 1598; **NIGHT-WALKER**=**NIGHT-BIRD** (*q.v.*), whence **NIGHT-WALKING** = prowling at night for robbery, prostitution, etc.

1598. **FLORIO**, *World of Wordes*, p. 105. Wanton or effeminate lads, **NIGHT-SNEAKERS**.

1598. **SHAKESPEARE**, 2 *Hen. IV.*, iii., 2. *Shallow*. And is Jane **NIGHTWORK** alive? . . . She was a bona-roba . . . certain she's old, and had Robin **NIGHTWORK** by old **NIGHTWORK** before I came to Clement's Inn.

b. 1600. *Grim the Collier* [**DODSLEY**, *Old Plays* (1874), viii., 463]. Except my poor Joan here, and she is my own proper **NIGHT-GEAR**.

1632. **MASSINGER**, *Maid of Honour*, ii., 2. Which of your grooms, Your coachman, fool, or footman, ministers **NIGHT-PHYSIC** to you?

1637. **MASSINGER**, *Guardian*, iii., 5. Now I think I had ever a lucky hand in such smock **NIGHT-WORK**.

1639. **MAYNE**, *City Match*, v., 7. Panders, avoid my house! O devil! are you my wife's **NIGHT-PIECES**.

c. 1696. **B. E.**, *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v., **NIGHT-RALE**. A woman's combing cloth, to dress her head in. *Ibid.* **NIGHT-MAGISTRATE**.

1725. *New Cant. Dict.*, s.v. NIGHT-MAGISTRATE.

1785. GROSE, *Vul. Tongue*, s.v. NIGHTMAN, one whose business it is to empty necessary houses in London, which is always done in the night, the operation is called a wedding. *Ibid.* NIGHT-MAGISTRATE.

1835. DICKENS, *Sketches by Boz*, i. The NIGHT-HOUSES are closed.

TO MAKE A NIGHT OF IT. *verb. phr.* (common).—To spend the night in drinking, whoring, gaming, etc.

NIGHT-AND-DAY, *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—The play.

NIGHT-BIRD (-CAP, -HAWK, -HUNTER, -POACHER, -SNAP, -TRADER, or -WALKER), *subs.* (old).—I. A thief working by night.—B. E. (c. 1696); *New Cant. Dict.* (1725).

1544. ASCHAM, *Toxophilus*. Men that hunt so be privy stealers, or NIGHT WALKERS.

1620. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Chances*, ii. 1. Sure these fellows Were NIGHT SNAPS. *Ibid.* *The Night walker, or the Little Thief* [Title].

1623. WEBSTER, *Duchess of Malfi*, ii. 1. If you hear the common people curse you, be sure you are taken for one of the prime NIGHT-CAPS.

1637. MASSINGER, *Guardian*, v. 2. *Ador.* You have been, Before your lady gave you entertainment, A NIGHT-WALKER in the streets. *Mirt.* How, my good lord! *Ador.* Traded in picking pockets.

c. 1819. *Old Song* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 83]. A NIGHT BIRD oft I'm in the cage.

2. (old).—A harlot. Also NIGHT-PIECE (or -SHADE); see NIGHT.—B. E. (c. 1696); *New Cant. Dict.* (1725).

1612. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Coxcomb*, ii. 2. Here comes a NIGHT-SHADE.

1630. MASSINGER, *Picture*, i. 2. All kinds of females, from the NIGHT-TRADER, in the street.

c. 1707. DURFEY, *Pills to Purge*, iii. 99. Now Miss turn NIGHT-WALKER.

3. (common).—A bully; a street brawler. Also (in bands), NIGHT-JURY.

1664. ETHEREGE, *Comical Revenge*, iv. 2. *Grace.* Do you take me for a NIGHT-WALKER, Sir?

1693. CONGREVE, *Old Batchelor*, i. 5. The knight was alone, and had fallen into the hands of some NIGHT-WALKERS, who, I suppose, would have pillaged him.

1708. HATTON, *New View of London* [quoted in ASHTON'S *Soc. Life in Reign of Q. Anne*], vii. 238. Loose and disorderly Servants, NIGHT-WALKERS, Strumpets, etc.

4. (old).—A bellman; a watchman.—B. E. (c. 1696); *New Cant. Dict.* (1725).

NIGHT-CAP, *subs.* (common).—I. The last drink; a DODGER (*q.v.*).

1840. HALIBURTON, *Clockmaker*, 3rd S., xi. Suppose we have brandy cocktail, it's as 'bout as good a NIGHT-CAP as I know on.

1843. MONCRIEFF, *The Scamps of London*, i. 2. You've had your NIGHT-CAP, a little daffy.

1843. *Handley Cross*, xxiv. Mr. Jorrock celebrated the event with . . . a NIGHT-CAP of the usual beverage.

1883. GREENWOOD, 'Seaside Insanity' in *Odd People in Odd Places*, p. 51. Who would begrudge them their pilfered repast, or the stiff glass of gin or brandy and water on which their parents and the maid-of-all-work regale after supper, and by way of a NIGHTCAP.

2. (old).—The cap pulled over the face before execution. See HORSE'S NIGHT-CAP.

1681. *Dialogue on Oxford Parliament* (*Harl. MSS.*, ii. 125). He better deserves to go up Holbown in a wooden chariot and have a horse NIGHT-CAP put on at the further end.

[?]. *MS. Trin. Coll. Oxon.*, 57. Nym, he seyde, this thief Faste in alle wyse, And wyn of him the tresour, And make him do sacrificyse.

1586. *The Booke of Hunting* [quoted by HALLIWELL]. Then boldly blow the prize thereat, Your play for to NIME or ye come in.

c.1600-62. *Common Cries of London* [COLLIER, *Roxburghe Ballads* (1847), 213]. And some there be . . . That pinch the countryman With NIMMING of a fee.

1606. JOHN DAY, *Ile of Gulls*, iii., p. 67. As I led him to his Chamber I NIMDE his Chayne and drew his Purse, and next morning perswaded him he lost it in the great Chamber at the Reuels.

1608. *Penniles Parl. in Harl. Misc.* (ed. PARK), i., 182. To the great impoverishing of all NIMMERS, lifters, and cut-purses.

1634. T. TOMKIS (?), *Albumazar*, iii., 7. Met you with Ronca? 'tis the cunning'st NIMMER Of the whole company of Cut-Purse Hall.

1637. MASSINGER, *Guardian*, v., 2. I am not good at NIMMING.

1640. RAWLINS, *The Rebellion*, iii. If our hell afford a devil, but I see none, unless he appear in a delicious remnant of NIM'D satin.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, i., i., 598. Examine Venus, and the Moon, VVho stole a thimble or a spoon . . . They'll question Mars, and by his look Detect who 'twas that NIMM'D a Cloke.

1664. BUTLER, *Hud.*, ii., iii., 209. *Booker's, Lilly's, Sarah Jimmers And Blank-Schemes to discover NIMMERS.*

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NIM. NIM a togeman—to steal a cloak. NIM a cloak, To cut off the buttons in a crowd, or whip it off a man's shoulders.

d.1704. LESTRANGE, *Works* [JOHNSON]. They could not keep themselves honest of their fingers, but would be NIMMING something or other for the love of thieving.

1727. GAY, *Beggar's Opera*, ii., 2. I must now step home, for I expect the gentleman about this snuff-box that Filch NIMMED two nights ago in the park.

1728. BAILEY, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf, &c.*, s.v.

1831. C. LAMB, *Hercules! acificatus*, in *Englishman's Mag.* And whatsoever they NIMM'D, she hid it.

1836. SMITH, *The Individual*, 'The Thieves' Chaunt', 5. But because she lately NIMM'D some tin, They have sent her to lodge at the King's Head Inn.

NIMBLE, *adj.* (colloquial).—Easy-got; quickly 'turned-over': of money. Cf. NINEPENCE.

1898. LE QUEUX, *Scribes and Phari-sees*, viii. The baronet was not very wealthy, and allowed his name to appear as director of certain companies, and pocketed fees ranging from the NIMBLE half-sovereign to the crisp and respectable five-pound note.

NIMBLE AS A CAT ON A HOT BAKESTONE (OR HOT BRICKS), *phr.* (common).—As nimble as may be; in a hurry to get away; alert; on the *qui-vive*. Also AS NIMBLE AS AN EEL IN A SAND-BAG, AS A NEW-GELT DOG, AS A BEE IN A TAR-BARREL, AS A COW IN A CAGE, OR AS NINEPENCE.—RAY (1676).

NIMENOG, *subs.* (old).—A fool. Also NIGMENOG.—B. E. (1696).

NIMGIMMER, *subs.* (old).—See quot.—GROSE (1785 and 1823).

1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NIM-GIMMER. A Doctor, Surgeon, Apothecary or any one that cures a Clap or the Pox.

NIMROD, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A hunting-man; a sportsman.

1599. HAKLUYT, *Voyages*, ii., i., 309. These mighty NIMRODS fled, some into holes and some into mountains.

1765. BLACKSTONE, *Comm.*, iv., 416. The game laws have raised a little NIMROD in every parish.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v.

1887. *Athenaeum*, 13 Aug., 208, 1. To the former (old sportsmen) he will recall events almost forgotten concerning the NIMRODS of a past generation.

2. *subs.* (venery).—The *penis*. [Because 'a mighty hunter']. See CREAMSTICK and PRICK.

1820. *London Mag.*, i., 25. He was always togged out to THE NINES.

1821. GALT, *Ayrshire Legatees*, viii. He's such a funny man, and touches off the Londoners to THE NINES.

1822. WILSON, *Noctes Ambrosianæ*, i., 315. That young chiel Gibb hits off a simple scene o' nature to THE NINES.

1856. READE, *Never too Late*, lxxv. Bran-new, polished to THE NINE.

1879. HOWELLS, *Lady of the Arco-stook*, xxvii. I'd know as I see anything wrong in his kind of dressin' up to THE NINES, as you may say. As long's he's got the money, I don't see what harm it is.

1891. GOULD, *Double Event*, 31. You do things up to THE NINES here.

NINE-SHILLINGS, *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—Nonchalance.

NINE-SPOT. ONLY A NINE-SPOT, *phr.* (American).—Indifferent; of small account. [The nine at cards rarely counts for a trick].

NINE-TAIL BRUISER (or **MOUSER**), *subs. phr.* (prison).—The cat-o'-nine-tails.

NINEWAYS. TO LOOK NINE WAYS (or NINE WAYS FOR SUNDAYS), *verb. phr.* (common).—To squint.

1542. UDALL, *Apophth. of Erasmus*, 203 (Note). Squyntietyed he was and looked NYNE WAVES.

NINE WINKS, *subs. phr.* (old).—A short nap: *cf.* FORTY-WINKS.—BEE (1823).

NINGLE. *See* INGLE.

NING-NANG, *subs.* (veterinary).—A worthless thoroughbred.

NINNY, *subs.* (old).—I. A fool: *see* BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD. Also NINNY-HAMMER, and hence NINNY-HAMMERING = foolishness.—B. E. (c. 1696); *New Cant. Dict.* (1725); GROSE (1785).

1593. NASH, *Strange News*, in *Works*, ii., 253. Whoreson NINIHAMMER, that wilt assault a man and have no stronger weapons.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*, *Fagnone* . . . an idle loytring gull, a NINNIE.

1606. MARSTON, *The Fawne*, ii., 1. A foole? A coxecombe? A NINNY-HAMMER?

1604. *Yorkshire Trag.*, i., 2. Why the more fool she; Ay, the more NINNY-HAMMER she.

1609. SHAKESPEARE, *Tempest*, iii., 2. What a pied NINNY's this.

1609. FIELD, *Woman is a Weather-cock* [DODSLEV, *Old Plays* (1874), xi., 24]. My father is a NINNY; and my mother was a HAMMER.

1698-1700. *London Spy*, vii. (1706), i., 154. You cuckoldy company of Whissling, Pedling, Lying, Over-reaching NINNY-HAMMERS.

1712. ARBUTHNOT, *History of John Bull*, i., xii. Have you no more manners than to rail at my husband, that has saved that clod-pated, numskulled, NINNY-HAMMER of yours from ruin?

1719. DURFEE, *Pills to Purge*, ii., 2. A Senator some say He made his dapple grey For his Italian Neigh A crack-brain'd NINNY.

1725. *New Cant. Dict.*, s.v.

1753. *Adventurer*, No. 25. The words NINNY-HAMMER, noodle, and numskull, are frequently bandied to and fro betwixt them.

1763. FOOTE, *Mayor of Garratt*, ii., 2. This whey-faced NINNY, who is but the ninth part of a man.

1811. JANE AUSTIN, *Sense and Sensibility*, xi. The Colonel is a NINNY, my dear; because he has two thousand a-year himself, he thinks that nobody else can marry on less.

1838. *Comic Almanach* [HOTTEN], p. 159. We're not such NINNIES as to stand in all this riot.

1847. LYTTON, *Lucretia*, ii., ii. If she's a good girl, and loves you, she'll not let you spend your money on her. I haint such a NINNY as that, said Beck, with majestic contempt.

1882. H. W. LUCY, in *Harper's Mag.*, April, 747. Any bore or NINNY-HAMMER who cared to invest a penny in a postage stamp could draw from the great man a post-card written in the well-known handwriting.

1892. HUME NISBET, *Bushranger's Sweetheart*, 64. Who would have thought the old duffer such a NINNY?

2. (Old Cant). — A whining beggar. — B. E. (c. 1696); *New Cant. Dict.* (1725); DYCHE (1748).

NINNY-BROTH, *subs.* (old). — See quot., 1696.

1696. *Poor Robin* [NAKES]. How to make coffee, alias NINNY BROTH.

1698-1700. WARD, *London Spy*, i. (1700), l. 15. Being half choak'd with the Steem that arose from their Soot-colour'd NINNY-BROTH, their stinking Breaths, and suffocating Fumes.

1708. *Hudibras Redivivus*, pt. i. Their wounded consciences they heal With NINNY-BROTH, o'er which they seek Some new religion ev'ry week.

NINTH. NINTH (OR TENTH*) PART OF A MAN, *subs. phr.* (common). A tailor. See SNIP. [From the proverb 'Nine tailors make a man': whence Queen Elizabeth's traditional address to a deputation of eighteen tailors: — 'God save you, gentlemen both.']

[*There exists literary usage for this form. Unfortunately, however, the quotation, which ante-dated the first authority *infra* by fifty years or more, has been mislaid, and memory, though judicially certain as to its existence, fails as regards the reference. — J. S. F.]

1763. FOOTE, *Mayor of Garratt*, ii., 30. A journeyman taylor . . . This cross-leg'd cabbage-eating son of a cucumber, this whey-fac'd ninny, who is but the NINTH PART OF A MAN.

1767. RAY, *Proverbs* [BOHN], 135. NINE TAILORS MAKE BUT ONE MAN.

1838. DESMOND, *Stage Struck*, i. The most savage of hoaxes! instead of gallanting a goddess to our shores, I had the felicity to usher from the 'boat the NINTH PART OF A MAN.

NIP, *subs.* (colloquial). — 1. A pinch.

2. (old). — A thief: specifically a cut-purse. — B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

1592. GREENE, *Third Part Conny-catching*, in *Works*, x., 174. Away goes the young NIP with the purse he got so easily.

1608. DEKKER, *Belman of London*, in *Wks.* (GROSART), iii., 154. He that cuts the purse is called the NIP . . . The knife is called a cuttle-bung. *Ibid.*, Sig. H. 3. They allot such countries to this band of foists, such townes to those, and such a city to so many NIPS.

1611. MIDDLETON, *Roaring Girl* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays*, vi., 113]. One of them is a NIP, I took him in the twopenny gallery at the Fortune. *Ibid.*, vi., 115. Of cheaters, lifters, NIPS, foists, puggards, curbers, With all the devil's black guard.

1658. *Honest Ghost*, p. 231. Pimps, NIPS, and tints, prinados, highway standers, All which were my familiars.

3. (colloquial). — (a) See quot. 1808: hence (b) a sip; a small drink; a GO (*q.v.*). Also NIPPER.

1606. ROLLOCK, on 2 *Thes.* 140. If thou hast not laboured . . . looke that thou put not a NIP in thy mouth. *Ibid.*, 150. The Lord vouchsafes not a NIP on them unless they worke.

1788. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. NYP or NIP. A half pint, a nip of ale; whence the nipperkin, a small vessel. *Ibid.* NYP-SHOP. The Peacock, in Gray's Inn-lane, where Burton ale is sold in NYPS.

1808. JAMIESON, *Dict.*, s.v. NIP. A small quantity of spirits; as a NIP of whiskey. — generally half a glass. *Ibid.* A small bit of anything, as much as is NIPPED or broken off between the finger and thumb.

1848. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers* [BARTLETT]. Then it waz, 'Mister Sawin, sir, you're middlin' well now, be ye? Step up an' take a NIPPER, sir; I'm dreffle glad to see ye.'

1855. *Harper's Mag.*, May. One of our Western villages passed an ordinance forbidding taverns to sell liquor on the Sabbath to any persons except travellers. The next Sunday every man in town, who wanted a NIP, was seen walking around with a valise in one hand and two carpet-bags in the other.

1861. JAMES CONWAY, *Forays Among Salmon and Deer*, 71. Having discussed a Scotch breakfast . . . preceded by a NIP of bitters as a provocative of the appetite.

1868. COLLINS, *Moonstone*, I., 15. Mrs. Yolland . . . gave him his NIP.

1873. BLACK, *Princess of Thule*, xciii. Young Eyre took a NIP of whiskey.

1888. RUNCIMAN, *The Chequers*, 86. The missus 'll fetch me some corffee, and, hear you, put a NIP o' that booze in.

4. (old).—A hit ; a taunt.

1556. HEYWOOD, *Spider and Flie* [NARES]. Wherwith, thought the flie, I have geven him a NYP.

1567. EDWARDS, *Damon & Pithias* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1876), iv., 27]. From their NIPS shall I never be free?

1581. LVLV, *Euphues*, D 3 b. Euphues, though he perceived her coie NIP, seemed not to care for it.

1589. PUTTENHAM, *Art of Eng. Poesie*, 43. The manner of Poesie by which they vttered their bitter taunts and priuy NIPS.

Verb. (colloquial).—1. To pinch. See quot. 1696.

[167]. *Little John and the Four Beggars*, 49 [CHILD, *Ballads*, v. 327]. John NIPPED the dumb, and made him to rore.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NIP. To Press between the Fingers and Thumb without the Nails, or with any broad Instrument like a pair of Tonges as to squeeze between Edged Instruments or Pincers.

1859. TENNYSON, *Merlin and Vivien*, 200. May this hard earth cleave to the Nadir hell, Down, down, and close again and NIP me flat.

1886. GREELY, *Arctic Service*, 73. The launch . . . was NIPPED between two floes of last year's growth.

1887. HENLEY, *Villon's Straight Tip to all Cross Coves* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 177]. It's up the spout and CHARLEY-WAG With wipes and tickers and what not. Until the squeezer NIPS your scrag, Booze and the blowens cop the lot.

2. (old).—To steal : specifically, to cut a purse.

1567. EDWARDS, *Damon & Pithias* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays*, I. (1874), iv., 19]. I go into the city some knaves to NIP. For talk, with their goods to increase the kings treasure.

1573. HARMAN, *Caveat* (1814), p. 66. To NYP a bounq, to cut a purse.

1592. GREENE, *Third Part Conny-catching*, in *Works*, x., 157. Oft this crew of mates met together, and said there was no hope of NIPPING the bounq [purse] because he held open his gowne so wide, and walked in such an open place.

1600. *Sir John Oldcastle*, v., 2. Be lusty, my lass ; come, for Lancashire : we must NIP the bung for these crowns.

1608. DEKKER, *Lanthorne and Candlelight* [GROSART, *Works* (188.), iii., 203]. Or NIP a bounq that has but a win.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Marshall*, p. 39 (H. Club's Rept. 1874). To NIP a lan, to cut a purse.

1620. *Descr. of Love* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 15]. Then in a throng, I NIP his bung.

c.1636. *London Chanticleers*, Sc. I. I mean to be as perfect a pick pocket, as good as ever NIPPED the judge's bung while he was condemning him.

d.1658. CLEVELAND, *Works* [NARES]. Take him thus and he is in the inquisition of the purse an authentick gypsie, that NIPS your bung with a canting ordinance ; not a murdered fortune in all the country, but bleeds at the touch of this malefactor.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v.

1712. SHIRLEY, *Triumph of Wit*, 'The Black Procession', 4. If a cull he does meet, He NIPS all his cole.

1714. *Memoirs of John Hall* (4th ed.), p. 13. NIP, to pick.

1736. RAMSAY, *Scotch Proverbs*, 87 [JAMIESON]. Yet was set off frae the oon for NIPPING the pyes.

1740. *Poor Robin*. Meanwhile the cut-purse in the throng, Hath a fair means to NYP a bung.

1768. ROSS, *Helene*, 126. Frae your ain uncle's gate was NIP awa' That bonny bairn, 'twas thought by Junky Fa.

3. (common).—To go. To NIP ALONG = to move with speed; TO NIP IN = to slip in, etc.

1885. *Daily Telegraph*, 2 Jan., 2, 2. I NIPPED OUT of bed.

1892. MILLIKEN, 'Arvy Ballads, 66. Managed to NIP in first-class.

1892. F. ANSTEV, *Voces Populi*, 'At the Tudor Exhibition.' Jove—my Aunt! NIP OUT before she spots me.

4. (common).—To take a dram.

1888. ROLF BOLDEWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, xxiv. You never saw a man look so scared as the passenger on the box-seat, a stout, jolly commercial, who'd been giving the coachman Havana cigars, and yarning and NIPPING with him at every house they passed.

1896. *The Lancet*, No. 3452, 863. In the homes alike of rich and poor the women have learned the fatal habit of NIPPING, and slowly but surely become confirmed dipsomaniacs.

5. (old).—See quot., NIP, *verb.*, sense 1, NIP-CHEESE, and NIP-LOUSE.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NIP. To pinch or sharp anything.

6. (old).—To taunt; to wring.

1599. STOWE, *Hist. Lond.*, 55. There were some, which on the other side, with epigrams and rymes, NIPPING and gripping their fellows.

1581. RICHE, *Farewell*. These cogitations did so NIPPE him, that he could not so well dissemble his grief.

7. (thieves').—To arrest; TO PINCH (*q. v.*).

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lon. Lab.*, iii., 147. They'd follow you about, and keep on NIPPING a fellow.

NIP AND TUCK, *adv. phr.* (common).—Touch and go; neck and neck; equality or thereabouts. Also NIP AND TACK, NIP AND CHUCK, &c.

1847. PORTER, *Quarter Race, &c.*, 17. It will be like the old bitch and the rabbit, NIP AND TACK every jump.

1869. *Putnam's Mag.*, Jan. It was NIP AND TUCK all along, who was to win her.

1888. *Detroit Free Press*, 20 Oct. We had some pretty running. It was NIP AND TUCK. We kept about an equal distance apart.

TO NIP IN THE BUD, *verb. phr.* (old: now recognised).—See quot.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NIP. To NIP IN THE BUD. Of an early Blast or Blite of Fruit; also to crush anything at the beginning.

1725. *New Cant. Dict.*, s.v.

NIP-CHEESE, *subs.* (old).—1. A miser. Also NIP-SQUEEZE and NIP-FARTHING.—GROSE (1785).

1566. DRANT, *Horace*, Sat. 1. I would thee not a NIP-FARTHING, Nor yet a niggard have.

2. (nautical).—See quotes. 1785, 1842, and 1867.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. NIP CHEESE, a nickname for the purser of a ship, from those gentlemen being supposed sometimes to NIP, or diminish the allowance of the seamen, in that and every other article.

1834. MARRVAT, *Jacob Faithful*, xx. (1873), 156. It's some of old NIPCHEESE's eights, that he has sent on shore to bowse his jib up with, with his sweetheart.

1842. MARRVAT, *Percival Kerne*, xiii. 'That's a NIPCHEESE.' 'NIPCHEESE!' 'Yes; NIPCHEESE means purser of the ship.'

1867. SMYTH, *Sailors' Word Book*, 477, s.v. NIPCHEESE. The sailors' name for a purser.

NIP-LOUSE, *subs.* (common).—A tailor. Also PRICKLOUSE. See SNIP.

NIP-LUG, *subs.* (Scots').—A teacher; a schoolmaster.

AT NIP-LUG, *adv. phr.* (Scots').
—At loggerheads; on the point
of collision.

NIPPENT, *adj.* (American).—Impu-
dent.

NIPPER, *subs.* (common).—I. A lad.
1851-61. MAYHEW, *London Lab. and
Lond. Poor*, I., p. 37. Such lads, how-
ever, are the smallest class of costermonger-
ing youths; and are sometimes called
'cas'alty boys,' or NIPPERS.

1888. RUNCIMAN, *Chequers*, 54.
They calls it a stream, but I dussn't say
wot I thinks it is afore the NIPPER.

1888. *Referee*, 11 Nov. Other NIP-
PERS—the little shrimps of boys—were
sometimes the best part of an hour at a
stretch, from the time they left till they
returned to the paddock to weigh in.

1892. CHEVALIER, *Idler*, June, p.
549. I've got a little NIPPER, when 'e talks
I'll lay yer forty shiners to a quid You'll
take 'im for the father, me the kid.

2. (old thieves').—See quot.
1785.

1659. JOHN DAY, *Mind Beggar*, I.,
3, p. 21. Had. Your NIPPER, your foyst,
your rogue, your cheat, your pander, your
any vile thing that may be.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.
NYPFER, a cut purse, so called by one
Wotton, who in the year 1585, kept an
academy for the education and perfection
of pick-pockets and cut purses; his school
was near Billingsgate, London. As in the
dress of ancient times many people wore
their purses at their girdles, cutting them
was a branch of the light fingered art,
which is now lost, though the name re-
mains . . . there was a school house set up
to learn young boys to cut purses: two
devices were hung up, one was a pocket,
and another was a purse, the pocket
had in it certain counters, and was hung
about with hawks bells, and over the top
did hang a little sacring bell. The purse
had silver in it, and he that could take
out a counter, without noise of any of the
bells, was adjudged a judicial NYPFER,
according to their terms of art; a foyster
was a pickpocket; a NYPFER was a pick
purse, or cut purse.

3. (navvys').—The serving lad
attached to a gang of navvies, to
fetch water and carry tools.

4. in *pl.* (thieves').—Handcuffs
or shackles.—HAGGART (1821);
GROSE (1823); MATSELL (1859).

5. in *pl.* (thieves').—A bur-
glar's instrument used from the
outside on a key. Also AMERI-
CAN TWEEZERS.

6. (Marlborough School).—A
boy or 'cad.'

Verb (old).—To arrest; to
catch. See NAB, and NIP.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Twyf. &c.*, s.v.
NIPPERED. What d'ye think? My eyes,
if Bill Soames warnt NIPPERED only for a
fogle little better than a wipe; and he was
there upon transported.

1824. EGAN, *Boxiana*, iv., 150. The
Pope being NIPPERED and brought to face
the Beak.

NIPPERKIN, *subs.* (old).—A small
measure: see quot. 1696; a stone
jug.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v.
NIPPERKIN. Half a pint of Wine, and but
half a Quatern of Brandy, strong waters,
&c.

1608-1700. WARD, *Lond. Spy*, II.
(1706), I., 31. By that time we had sip'd
off our NIPPERKIN of my Grannums *Aqua
Mirabilis*.

1707. DURFEE, *Pills to Purge* . . .
Quart-pot, pint-pot, NIPPERKIN, &c.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.

1832. *Noctes Ambrosianae*, Sept.
William III., who only snoozed over a
NIPPERKIN of Schiedam with a few Dutch
favourites.

1882. J. ASHTON, *Social Life in
Reign of Q. Anne*, I., 197. [Beer] was of
different qualities, from the 'penny NIP-
PERKIN of Molasses Ale' to 'a pint of Ale
cost me five-pence.'

NIPPING, *adj.* (old).—Sharp; cut-
ting.—B. E. (c. 1696).

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet*, I. 4. It
is a NIPPING and an eager air.

NIPPING CHRISTIAN, *subs. phr.*
(old).—A cut-purse: see NIPPER,
sense 2.

NIPPING-JIG, *subs.* (old).—Hang-ing.

NIPPITATE, *subs.* and *adj.* (Old Cant).—Strong drink, especially ale. Also NIPPITATO and NIP-PITATUM.

c.1575. LANEHAM, *Letter* [NARES]. And ever quited himself with such estimation, as yet too tast of a cup of NIPPITATI, his judgement will be taken above the best in the parish, be his nose near so read.

1583. STUBBES, *Anat. of Abuses* [NARES]. Then when this NIPPITATUM, this huffe cappe, as they call it, this nectar of life, is set abroad, well is he that can get the soonest to it, and spend the most upon it.

1592. NASH, *Summer's Last Will* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1874), viii., 60]. Never cap of NIPPITATV in London come near thy niggardly habitation.

1593. HARVEY, *Pierce's Supererogation*. The NIPPITATV of the nappiest grape.

1594. *Look About You* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1874), vii., 445]. He was here to-day, Sir, And emptied two bottles of NIPPITATE sack.

1600. OLIVER, *Weakest Goes to Wall*, B. 2. Well fare England, where the poore may have a pot of ale for a penny, fresh ale, firme ale, nappie ale, NIPPITATE ale.

1611. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Knight of Burning Pestle*, iv. R. Lady, 'tis true, you need not lay your lips To better NIPPITATO than there is.

1654. CHAPMAN, *Alphonsus*, iii., 1. 'Twill make a cup of wine taste NIPPITATE.

1891. FENNELL, *Stanford Dict.*, s.v. NIPPITATUM, *quasi*-Lat.; NIPPITATO, *quasi*-It. . . . possibly connected with the Eng. vb. *nip*, =Du. *nippen*, 'to take a dram.'

NIPPS, *subs.* (old).—Shears for clipping money.—B. E. (c. 1696): GROSE (1785).

NIPPY, *subs.* (children's).—The penis: see CREAMSTICK and PRICK.

Adj. (common).—Mean; stingy; curt; snappish.

NIPSHOT. TO PLAY NIPSHOT, *verb. phr.* (old).—To fail; to decamp: see ABSQUATULATE and SKED-ADDLE.

1775. BAILLIE, *Letters*, ii., 198. Our great hope on earth, the City of London has played NIPSHOT; they are speaking of dissolving the assembly.

NIQUE, *subs.* (American thieves').—Contemptuous indifference.—MATSELL (1859).

NISEY. See NIZEY.

NIT, *subs.* (old).—1. See quot.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NIT. Wine that is brisk, and pour'd quick into a glass.

2. (old: now recognised).—The egg of a louse.—B. E. (c. 1696); *New Cant. Dict.* (1725).

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Words* (1611). Zeiche NEETS in the eie lids. Also tikes that breed in dogs.

1698-1700. WARD, *London Spy*, 1. (1700), l. 12. [He] has as many *Maggot*s in his *Noddle*, as there are . . . NITS in a *Mumpers Doublet*.

3. (Scots').—A wanton: see BARRACK-HACK and TART [JAMIESON].

NITS WILL BECOME LICE, *phr.* (old).—See quot.

1725. *New Cant. Dict.*, s.v. NITS WILL BECOME LICE; of small matters that become important.

NIT-SQUEEZER, *subs.* (common).—A hair-dresser.—GROSE (1788).

NIX (or NICKS), *adv.* (common).—Nothing. Also NIX MY DOLL, and (American), NIXY and NIXY-CULLY. SYNONYMS. Ack (Christ's Hospital); love; *nib*, *niberque*, *niberte*, *nif*, *nisce*, *nix* (French); *niba*, *niberto* (Italian); *nexo* (Spanish).

1789. GEO. PARKER, *Life's Painter*, p. 143. NICKS. How they have brought a German word into cant I know not, but NICKS means *nothing* in the cant language.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v.

1824. EGAN, *Boziana*, iv., 444. Men who can be backed for large stakes do seldom fight for NIX (comically called 'love').

1852. *Old Song*, 'The Cadger's Ball' [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 147]. Old Mother Swankey, she consented to lend her lodging-house for NIX.

1858. A. MAYHEW, *Paved with Gold*, III., 1, p. 254. Do you see all this land? said he . . . well, the grandfather of this here Lord Southwark got it for NIX.

1887. HENLEY, *Villon's Straight Tip*, 3. FOR NIX, for NIX the dibbs you bag.

1892. *Ally Sloper*, 19 Mar., 90, 3. When death of Uncle John bereft us, We said we mourned because he'd left us; Our mourning was a lot profounder To find he'd left us NIX—the bounder!

2. (American).—See quot.

1885. *W. S. Official P.O. Guide*, Jan., 685. NIXES is a term used in the railway mail service to denote matter of domestic origin, chiefly of the second and first class, which is unmailable because addressed to places which are not post-offices, or to States, etc., in which there is no such post-office as that indicated in the address.

Intj. (common).—See quot.

1883. *Indoor Paupers*, 45. So the thing goes on until some one on the watch cries, 'Nix lads, buttons!'—the warning that the taskmaster is at hand.

NIX MY DOLL, *phr.* (common).—Never mind! [Popularised by Ainsworth's song]. Also (VAUX) = nothing.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood* . . . And my old dad, as I've heard say, Was a famous merchant in capers gay; NIX MY DOLL, pals, fake away!

1846. *Punch Almanack*, 'Song of September' (after AINSWORTH) . . . What ho! my gun, my gallant boys, September's always jolly; I love the sportsman's pleasant noise Yoicks! Forward! Nix my DOLL.

NIZ-PRIZ, *subs.* (legal).—A writ of nisi-pris.

NIZZIE, *subs.* (old).—I. A fool: see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD. Also NIKIN.—B. E. (c. 1696); COLES (1724).

1755. JOHNSON, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v. Nizy [from *niais*]. A dunce; a simpleton. A low word.

δ. 1755. ANON [quoted by JOHNSON]. True critics laugh, and bid the trifling NISV Go read Quintilian.

2. (old).—A coxcomb.—B. E. (c. 1696).

NO. NO BATTLE, *phr.* (printers').—No good; not worth while.

NO CHICKEN, *phr.* (common). Getting on in years: usually of women.

1889. DRAGE, *Cyril*, iv. I dont think that Miss Vera is ANY CHICKEN.

NO END, *adv. phr.* (colloquial).—Extremely; a great many. A general intensive.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, xiii. (1864), 141. The black and yellow seems to slip along so fast. They're NO END of good colours. I wish our new boat was black.

1863. READE, *Hard Cash*, 1. 325. They drifted past a Revenue Cutter, who was lying to with her head to the Northward. She howled NO END of signals, but they understood none of them.

1876. GRANT, *One of the Six Hundred*, xiv. We were beset by London Jews and army contractors, and I had, as the phrase goes, NO END of unsuspected things to provide.

NO FEAR. See FEAR.

NO-FLIES, *adv.* (printers').—Artful; designing. Also N.F. (g.v.)

NO FOOL, *adv. phr.* (common).

—An ironical intensive: cf. NO SLOUCH.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, xix. It was thirty feet high—NO FOOL of a drop.

NO GO, *adv. phr.* (common).
—No use; impossible. Fr. *zut!*
and *ça ne mord pas*.

1830. MONCRIEFF, *Heart of London*,
i. 1. I'm much obliged to you: it's NO GO.

1836. MARRYAT, *Midshipman Easy*,
xix. But it's NO GO with old Smallsole, if
I want a bit of caulk.

1848. RUXTON, *Life in Far West*,
146. Outside is NO GO.

1852. *Notes and Queries*, 17 Jan. Ser.
1. v. 55. My publisher coolly answered
that it was NO GO.

1871. *Daily News*, 17 April, p. 2. col.
2. How many beyond those mentioned in
the foregoing remarks have been backed in
earnest, I should not like to say; and it
strikes me that it is a case of NO GO with
Autocrat, Sarsfield

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippe*, viii.
Well, I tried to get some banjo pupils—NO
GO; no testimonials.

1896. FARJEON, *Betray John Ford-*
ham, III, 281. But it was NO GO; them
as gathered round wouldn't part.

NO KID, *adv. phr.* (common).
—No mistake.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippe*, xx.
I was knocked silly and taken to the same
'ospital, and when I woke I was in bed,
my boko all plastered up like a broken
arm, and a gal in a white hat and blue-
dress a-waiting on me—a real lady, NO KID.

NO MOSS, *phr.* (tailors').—
No animosity.

NO NAME, NO PULL, *phr.*
(tailors').—If I name no names
there can be no libel—if I do
not mention his name he cannot
take offence, unless he likes to
apply the remarks to himself.

NO ODDS, *adv. phr.* (collo-
quial).—No matter; of no con-
sequence.

1855. DICKENS, *Little Dorrit*, i. ch.
xix. 'How vexatious, Chivery?' asked
the benignant father. 'No ODDS,' re-
turned Mr. Chivery. 'Never mind.'

NO REPAIRS. See REPAIRS.

NOAH'S ARK, *subs.* (common).—1.
A long closely-buttoned over-
coat. [A coinage of *Punch*: from
a similarity to the wooden figures
in a toy ark.]

2. (nautical).—See quot.

1867. SMYTH, *Sailors' Word-book*,
498, s.v. NOAH'S ARK, Certain clouds
elliptically parted, considered a sign of
fine weather after rain.

3. (rhyming slang).—A LARK
(*q.v.*).

1887. SIMS, *Referee*, Nov. 7. Tottie
She cried, What a NOAH'S ARK.

NOAKES. See JOHN O' NOAKES.

NOB, *subs.* (common).—1. The
head: see CRUMPET.—B. E.
(c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

1733. KANE O'HARA, *Tom Thumb*,
i. 4. Do pop up your NOB again, And egad
I'll crack your crown.

1782. PARKER, *Humorous Sketches*,
155. Here no despotic power shews
oppression's haughty NOB.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Crib's Mem.*, p.
23. With daddles high uprais'd, and NOB
held back, In awful prescience of th' im-
pending thwack.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf, etc.*, s.v.
NOB. 'Josh paid his respects pretty
plentifully to the Yokel's NOB.' 'His NOB
was pinked all over,' *i.e.* marked in sundry
places.

1834. DOWLING, *Othello Travestie*,
i. 3. A thought has crossed my NOB.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick Papers*
(1857), 360. Leave off rattlin' that 'ere
NOB o' yourn, if you don't want it to come
off the springs altogether, said Sam im-
patiently, and behave reasonable.

1840. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Leg.*
(*Black Mousquetaire*). Whom I once
saw receive, such a thump on the NOB
From a fist which might almost an elephant
brain.

1845. *Punch*, ix. 9. Getting the NOB
into chancery is a fine achievement, I once
got several NOBS into chancery; and I
certainly gave several of them severe
punishment.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *London Lab.*, i.
341. These he would engage at a bob a NOB.

1856. *Punch*, xxx. 241. *Mary Ann's Notions*. Vulgar, dear. You might as well have written one for his NOB—you meant it.

1892. MILLIKEN, 'Arny Ballads, 40. Why shouldn't her stage trotter-out take his perks too at so much a NOB.

2. (common).—A person of rank or position. [From Nobility: cf. MOB, Fr. *mobile vulgus*]. Hence TO COME THE NOB=to put on airs.—GROSE (1823). See DANDY.

1703. *English Spy*, 255. Be unto him ever ready to promote his wishes, whether for spree or sport, in term and out of term . . . against dun or don—NOB or big-wig—so may you never want a bumper of bishop.

1823. BEK, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. NOB. A . . . NOB . . . differs from *swell*, inasmuch as the latter makes a show of his finery; whereas the NOB, relying upon intrinsic worth, or bona-fide property, or intellectual ability, is clad in plainness.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick Papers*, (ed. 1857), 12. 'Wait a minute,' said the stranger, 'fun presently—NOBS not come yet—queer place. Dock-yard people of upper rank don't know Dock-yard people of lower rank—small gentry don't know tradespeople—Commissioner don't know any body.'

1840-45. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends* (1862), 70. No! no!—The Abbey may do very well For a feudal NOB, or poetical 'swell.'

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, vii. The high principle that Nature's NOBS felt with Nature' NOBS.

1849. THACKERAY, *Hoggarty Diamond*, iv. He was at the West End on Thursday, asked to dine, ma'am, with the tip-top NOBS.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lon. Lab.*, II., 56. I may observe that the NOBS is a common designation for the rich among these sporting people.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, II., 58. Sherrick *log*. Capital house, Mr. Newcome, wasn't it? I counted no less than fourteen NOBS.

1863. READE, *Hard Cash*, I., 228. Once more, [1846 Railway Mania] . . . a motley crew of peers and printers, etc. . . .; in a word, of NOBS and snobs, fought and scrambled pell mell for the popular paper; and all to get rich in a day.

1870. *Figaro*, 18 July. Is it more cruel for a snob to shoot a sea-bird in the breeding season than it is for a NOB to shoot pigeons in the breeding season, thereby starving all their young?

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, xli. He was introduced to all the NOBS.

1892. ANSTEV, *Voces Populi*, 'In the Mall on Drawing Room Day,' p. 84. All I was goin' to see was a set o' blanky NOBS shut up in their blankdash kerridges.

3. (Oxford University).—See quot.

1825. *The English Spy*, i. 136. We must find you some more tractable personage; some good-humoured NOB.*

[NOTE. *A fellow of a college].

4. (workmen's).—A KNOB-STICK (*q.v.*).

5. (old).—The game of prick- (or cheat-) the-garter.

1754. *Discoveries of John Poulter*, 10. We got about three pounds from a buttermilk at the Belt or NOBS.

6. (old).—A sovereign; 20s.

Verb. (pugilists').—1. To strike; to get home a blow (specifically on the head): cf. NOBBER.

1821. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry*, ii., 5. *Tom*. I've NOBBED him on the canister.

2. (showmen's).—To collect money; to take round the hat. Fr. *faire la manche*.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *London Lab.*, III., 145. When we go about the streets with tumblers . . . we also NOB or gather the money.

1890. *Spare Moments*, 23 Aug. A good nobber or collector—always a very gentlemanly fellow—is worth every penny of his share for NOBBING alone.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippe*, vi. At Chichester we opened up opposite the George Hotel, and I NOBBED half a sovereign from a young visitor, besides a lot of small money.

NOB IN THE FUR TRADE, *subs. phr.* (old).—A judge.

c.1838. REYNOLDS, *Pickwick Abroad*, 'The Housebreaker's Song.' Let NOBS IN THE FUR TRADE hold their jaw.

TO NOB IT, *verb. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v. NOB IT. To act with such prudence and knowledge of the world, as to prosper and become independent without any labour or bodily exertion; this is termed NOBBING IT, or FIGHTING NOB WORK. To effect any purpose or obtain anything by means of good judgment and sagacity, is called NOBBING IT for such a thing.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v.

ONE FOR HIS NOB, *subs. phr.* (pugilists').—1. A blow on the head.

2. (gamesters').—A point in cribbage for holding the knave of trumps. *Cf.* TWO FOR HIS HEELS.

1888. *Notes and Queries*, 7th S. v., 28th April, 340. The old name of cribbage was 'nuddy.' 'Noddy,' being the name for the knave, has been contracted into NOB. As NOB=head, the antagonism of 'heels' is obvious.

TO PITCH THE NOB. *See* PRICK-THE-GARTER.

NOB-A-NOB.—*See* HOB-NOB (q.v.). Probably a corruption.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood* (ed. 1864), 192. We must have a NOB-A-NOB glass together, for old acquaintance sake.

NOBBA, *adj.* (common).—Nine [Italian, *Nove*; Spanish, *Nova*; the *b* and *v* being interchangeable, as in *sabe* and *savvey*].

NOBBER, *subs.* (pugilists').—*See* NOB, sense 1.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Crib*, 40. For, though, all know, that flashy spark From C—at—r—gh received a NOBBER.

2. (showmen's).—*See* quot.

1890. *Echo*, 30 Oct. NOBBER is beach slang for financial agent, and indicates the gentleman who goes round with the plate or box. Great care is always bestowed upon the selection of the NOBBER. He is really the most important member of the troupe, and must be an artist of the first water if he is to get any money. . . . Only a NOBBER can know the extraordinary meanness of the British public, the reluctant way in which it doles out its coppers, and its refusal to donate silver on any terms.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippe*, vi. I have often met honourable NOBBERS since like the poller, that poor honest artiste, who was far too honourable to allow any slur to be cast upon his character.

NOBBILY, *adj.* (common).—Showily; smartly: *cf.* NOBBY.

NOBBING, *subs.* (pugilists').—1. The administration of blows on the head.

1825. JONES, *True Bottomed Boxer* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 92]. With flipping and milling, and fobbing and NOBBING.

2. in *pl.* (showmen's).—Money collected: *see* NOBBER.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *London Lab. and Lond. Poor*, III. 118. After him I began my performance, and he went round for the NOBBINGS.

NOBBING-CHEAT, *subs.* (old).—*See* NUBBING-CHEAT.

NOBBING-SLUM, *subs. phr.* (showmen's).—The bag for collecting money: *see* NOBBER, sense 2.

NOBBLE, *verb.* (pugilists').—1. To strike on the head; to stun.

2. (racing).—*See* quot. 1882; TO GET AT (q.v.).

1868. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 4 May. Buccaneer underwent the same fate as Old Calabar, and was NOBBLED, i.e. maimed purposely, before the Two Thousand in which he was engaged, and this rascally proceeding drove Lord Portsmouth, from the turf in disgust.

1882. *Saturday Review*, 25 Mar. In the elegant dialect of sporting novelists to NOBBLE is a stronger term for to 'get at' a horse, or his owner or his jockey, and to 'get at' means secretly to frustrate, spoil, lame, dose, drug, or otherwise prevent the horse from 'doing his level best,' or for that matter his best across hurdles, or in a steeple-chase.

1888. GOULD, *Double Event*, 145. Found out who tried to NOBBLE the horse?

1892. *Evening Standard*, 11 May, 4. A very sensible suggestion has been made with reference to the NOBBLING of horses. It is extremely improbable that there would be any attempt to injure a horse except for the purpose of winning bets of one sort or another about him.

3. (common).—To circumvent; to cheat; TO DO (*q.v.*); TO SQUARE (*q.v.*).

1877. GREENWOOD, *Dick Temple* [*Slang, J. & C.*]. There's a fiver in the puss, and nine good quid. Have it. NOBBLE him, lads, and share it betwixt you.

1883. *Punch*, 2 June, 264, 1. Never have anything to do with the Turf. They are all scamps alike, and would sell their own fathers to gain their ends. But if you can't resist it, like me, there's only one chance for you, and that is, to NOBBLE the jockey!

1886. *Fortnightly Rev.*, xxxix. 136. It was never certain whether he was going to NOBBLE the Tories, or square the Radicals.

1890. GRANT ALLEN, *The Tents of Shem*, xii. I've NOBBLED her, he thought to himself, with a triumphant smile.

1896. SALA, *London up to Date*, 67. The proposers and seconders of the various candidates have warily ranged themselves on guard . . . and remain there hour after hour, skilfully NOBBLING members as they enter.

4. (common).—To appropriate; to catch; TO NAB (*q.v.*).

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xiv. I don't know out of how much the reverend party has NOBBLED his poor old sister at Brighton.

1860. THACKERAY, *Philip*, xvi. The old chap has NOBBLED the young fellow's money, almost every shilling of it, I hear.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, xi. We're bound to be NOBBLED some day.

NOBBLER, *subs.* (pugilists').—1. A blow on the head; and 2 (common), a finishing stroke; A SETTLER (*q.v.*). In rod-fishing = the gaff (that kills).

1817. SIR HARRY POTTINGER, *Trout Fishing*. Then after one alarming flurry on the top of the water, my left hand slips the landing-net under him and his final struggles are shortly ended with a single tap of the NOBBLER.

3. (sharper's).—A confederate of thimble-riggers and card-sharper's; BONNET (*q.v.*); BEARER UP (*q.v.*); also: NOB PITCHER. [The NOBBLER plays as if a stranger to the RIG (*q.v.*), to draw unsuspecting persons into play.]

1854. WHYTE-MELVILLE, *General Bounce*, vii. NOBBLERS and noblemen—grooms and gentlemen—betting-house keepers and cavalry officers—apparently all layers and no takers.

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*, 261. In my young days there used to travel about in gangs, like men of business, a lot of people called NOBBLERS, who used to work the 'thimble and pea rig' and go buzzing, that is, picking pockets, assisted by some small boys.

4. (North country).—A pettifogging lawyer.

5. (Australian).—A drink: A GO (*q.v.*); specifically of spirits.

1759. FOWLER, *Southern Lights and Shadows*, p. 53. To pay for liquor for another is to 'stand,' or to 'shout,' or to 'sacrifice.' The measure is called a NOBBLER, or a break-down.

1859. KINGSLEY, *Geoffrey Hamlyn*, xxxi. I had two NOBBLERS of brandy and one of Old Tom.

NOB-WORK, *subs.* (common). — Mental occupation.

NOCKANDRO (or **NOCK**), *subs.* (old). — 1. The posteriors; THE BUM (*q.v.*). [NOCK = notch + Gr. *andros* = a man]. — GROSE (1785); NARES (1822).

1632. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Cul.* An arse, bumme, tayle, NOCKANDRO, fundament.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. 194. My foul NOCKANDROW all bemerded.

1654. GAYTON, *Fest. Notes*, 14. Blest be Dulcinea, whose favour I beseeching, Rescued poor Andrew, and his NOCK-ANDRO from breeching.

1662. *Rump Songs*, ii. 85. *The Rump Carbonado'd*, 41. Lenthall now Lords it though the Rabble him mock, In calling him Speaker, and Speaker to the Dock, For an hundred pound more hee'l kiss their very NOCK.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, i. i. 285. But when the date of NOCK was out, Off drop't the sympathetic snout.

1775. ASH, *Dict.*, s.v. NOCK. . . the aperture of the fundament.

2. (venery). — The female *pusdendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*, *Cunno* a womans NOCKE.

1675. COTTON, *Scoffer Scofft*, in *Works* (1725), p. 278. It being pretty coldish weather, He needs must have us lie together; And so we did . . . When . . . Twixt some twelve and one o'clock, He tilts his tantrum at my NOCK.

Verb. (venery). — See quot.

1775. Cf. KNOCK, *verb.* See GREENS and RIDE.

1568. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*, s.v. *Cunnata*, a woman NOCKED.

1775. ASH, *Dict.*, s.v. NOCK, to perform the act of generation on a female.

NOCKY, *subs.* (old). — A simpleton; a dullard. Also NOCKY-BOY, and as *adj.* — B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785); MATSELL (1859).

NOCTURNE, *subs.* (venery). — A prostitute; a NIGHT PIECE (*q.v.*): see BARRACK-HACK and TART.

NOD, *verb.* (colloquial). — To be stupid or dull.

THE LAND OF NOD, *subs. phr.* (colloquial). — Sleep. [Cf. 'the LAND OF NOD on the East of the JORDAN' (*q.v.*), *Gen.* iv. 16.]

1608-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversation*, iii. *Col.* I'm going to the LAND of NOD. *Neverout.* Faith, I'm for Bedfordshire.

1819. SCOTT, *Tales of my Landlord*, iii. 124. And d'ye ken, lass, said Madge, there's queer things chanced since ye hae been in THE LAND OF NOD.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* (EGAN), s.v.

1828. HOOD, *Miss Kilmansegg*. A first-class carriage of ease, In the LAND OF NOD, or where you please.

1889. *Detroit Free Press*, 16 Feb. So he waked it up, and all baby did was to open its little eyes, sniff, smile sleepily, and go right off again to the LAND OF NOD.

1892. HUME NISBET, *Bushranger's Sweetheart*, 275. We flung ourselves down on our blankets, and were soon in the LAND OF NOD.

A NOD IS AS GOOD AS A WINK TO A BLIND HORSE, *phr.* (colloquial). — Said of a covert hint — an allusion not put into plain words.

1831. BUCKSTONE, *Beggar Boy*, i. 1. *Jean* (laughing.) You understand him by that? *Bart.* To be sure I do! A NOD'S AS GOOD AS A WINK FOR A BLIND HORSE, you know, master.

1837. RICHARD BRINSLEY PEAKE, *A Quarter To Nine*, ii. A NOD'S AS GOOD AS A WINK TO A BLIND HORSE.

1889. *Evg. Standard*, 25 June. A WINK WAS AS GOOD AS A NOD, and trainers and jockeys . . . easily gathered whether a particular horse was only out for an airing, &c.

1834. DOWLING, *Othello Travestie*, i. 1. For fear old Drab, when he comes back, should take it in his NODDLE To march me to the Duke with him.

1864. DICKENS, *Our Mutual Friend*, ii. ii. There's something in that, replied Miss Wren; you have a sort of an idea in your NODDLE sometimes.

NODDLE-CASE, *subs.* (old).—A wig.

d. 1680. T. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 197. Next time you have occasion for a NODDLE-CASE.

NODDY (NOD, NODDIE-NODDIPOLE, NODDY-POLE, NODDY-PATE, or NODDY-PEAKE), *subs.* (old).—1. A simpton: see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD. Also TOM NODDY.—GROSE (1785).

1540. HEYWOOD, *Four Ps* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1874), i. 360]. If I denied, I were a NODDY.

1557. SIR THOS MORE, *Works*, 709. Or els so foolyshe, that a verye NODY-POLL nydote myght be ashamed to say it.

1562-63. JACK JUGGLER [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1874), ii. 130]. It would grieve my heart, so help me God, To run about the streets like a masterless NOD.

1567. EDWARDS, *Damon and Pythias* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1874), iv. 17]. Ere you came thither, poor I was somebody; The King delighteth in me, now I am but a NODDY.

1580. PUTTENHAM, *Arte of Eng. Poesie*, B. i. xx. As we find of Irus the beggar, and Thersites the glorious NODDIE, whom Homer makes mentions of.

1598. FLORIO, *A Worlde of Wordes*. *Coglione*, a NODDIE, a foole.

1606. *Return from Parnassus* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1874), ix. 102]. You that can play at NODDY, or rather play upon NODDIES.

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, iv. 2. Nay, see; she will not understand him! Gull, NODDY!

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Benet*. A simple, plaine, doltish fellow; a NODDI-PEAKE, a ninny-hammer, a pea-goose, a cox, a sillie companion.

1614. Terence in *English*. *Vix tandem sensi stolidus*. I now yet scarce perceive it, foole that I am; I now at length hardly understand with much adoe, whorsen NODIPOL that I am.

166a. *Rump Songs*, ii. 55. There is another Proverb which every NODDY, Will jeer the Rump with, and cry hodd-doddy, etc.

1675. COTTON, *Scoffer Scoffs* [Works (1725), 203]. What would'st thou have me such a NODDY.

1691-92. *Gentlemen's Journal*, Feb., p. 24. Diana, whom poetic NODDIES Would have us think to be some goddess.

1852. JUDSON, *Myst. of New York*, iv. Open a jewelry store, you NODDY, 'ow 're you goin' to do that?

2. (old).—See quotes.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. NODDY a kind of buggy or one horse chaise, with a seat before it for a driver, used in and about Dublin in the manner of a hackney coach.

1847. *Sketches of Ireland* [quoted by BREWER]. The 'Set-down' was succeeded by the NODDY, so called from its oscillating motion backwards and forwards.

d. 1894. STEVENSON, *Treasure of Franchard*. Jean-Marie led forth the doctor's NODDY.

Adj. (old).—Simple; foolish.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *Two Gentlemen*, i. 1. S. She did nod, and I said, I. P. And that set together is NODDY. S. Now you have taken the pains to set it together, take it for your pains.

KNAVE NODDY, *subs. phr.* (old).—The knave of trumps.—

B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1823).

1757. FOOTE, *Author*, ii. 1. *Mod. Brit. Dram.* (1811), V. 281. You want four, and I two, and my deal: now KNAVE NODDY—no, hearts be trumps.

NODDY-HEADED, *adj.* (common).—

1. Witless.

2. (common).—Drunk: see DRINKS and SCREWED.

NODGECOCK, *subs.* (old).—A simpton.

1566-7. PAINTER, *Pal. Pleas.*, i. E and 5. This poore NODGECOCK contriving the time with sweete and pleasaunt woordes with his darelign Simphorasia.

NOFFAUR, *subs.* (popular). — A prostitute: *see* BARRACK-HACK and TART.

1877. *Bird o' Freedom* [quoted in *S. J. & C.*]. Wrong 'uns at the Wateries, NOFFGURS at the Troc, Coryphyées by Ketner, Tartlets anywhere.

NOG. *See* NOGGIN.

NOGIN (NOG or KNOGIN), *subs.* (old). — 1. A small measure of spirits; a GO (*q.v.*). — B. E. (*c.* 1696).

1719. SWIFT, *To Dr. Sheridan*, 14 Dec. For all your colloquing, I'd be glad of a KNOGIN.

1789. PARKER, *Life's Painter*, 154, s.v.

1860. MRS. GASKELL, *Sylvia's Lovers*, xxiv. The sergeant . . . brought up his own mug of beer, into which a NOGIN of gin had been put.

2. (old). — A mug.

1635. HEYWOOD, *Drunkeard Opened*, 45. Mases, broad mouth'd diases, NOGINS, whisksins, piggins, etc.

1790. *Virgin Sacrifice*, Song (FARMER, *Merry Songs and Ballads* (1897), iii. 221). When merrily jogging, Home to the Brown NOGIN.

c. 1816. MAHER, *Song*, 'The Night before Larry was Stretched' [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 79]. 'Pon my conscience, dear Larry, says I, 'I'm sorry to see you in trouble, And your life's cheerful NOGIN run dry.'

1818. LADY MORGAN, *Fl. Macarthy* (1819), i. iii. 161. Repeatedly drank from a NOGIN of water beside him.

1833-34. CARLILE, *Sart. Resar*, 196. The furniture of this caravansera consisted of a large iron Pot, two oaken Tables, two Benches, two Chairs, and a Potheen NOGIN.

3. (old). — The head: *see* CRUMPET.

NOGAY, *adj.* (provincial). — Intoxicated: *see* DRINKS and SCREWED.

NO-HOW, *adv.* (colloquial). — 1. Upset; out of sorts.

1868. DICKENS, *Dr. Marigold's Prescription*. Ain't Mr. B. so well this morning! You look all NO-HOW.

2. (old colloquial). — Out of countenance.

c. 1840. D'ARBLAY, *Diary*, i. 161. I could not speak a word; I dare say I looked NO-HOW.

NOISE, *subs.* (old colloquial). — 1. A band of musicians.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *a Henry IV.* ii. 4. And see if thou canst find Sneak's NOISE; mistress Tear-sheet would fain hear some music.

1608. DEKKER, *Belman of London* [HALLIWELL]. Those terrible NOISES, with thredbare cloakes.

1614. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Wit at Several Weapons*, iii. i. Have you prepared good music? G. As fine a NOISE, uncle, as heart can wish.

1632. HEYWOOD, *Iron Age* [NARES]. We shall have him in one of Sneak's NOISE, — with — will you have any music, gentlemen?

1633. JONSON, *Tale of a Tub*, i. 4. Press all NOISES of Finsbury in our name.

2. (old). — *See* quot.

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NOISE. Used either of Harmonious or confused Sounds, NOISE of Thunder, or of a Mill, NOISE of the Hounds, A NOISE of Fiddles, of Trumpets and Drums, A NOISE of Swords, or clashing.

TO MAKE A NOISE AT ONE, *verb. phr.* (colloquial). — To scold.

TO NOISE ONE, *verb. phr.* (colloquial). — To tell tales of; TO SPLIT (*q.v.*).

NOISY-DOG-RACKET, *subs. phr.* (old). — *See* quot.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. NOISY DOG RACKET. Stealing Brass knockers from doors.

NOKES, *subs.* (old). — *See* quotes., and JOHN-A-NOKES.

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NOKES. A Ninny or Fool; also a noted Droll lately Dead.

c.1707. DUFFEY, *Pills to Purge, &c.* (1707), ii. 226. The Niece of a Canting, Bleer-Ey'd NON-CON.

1748. DODSLEY, *Collection of Poems*, i. 66. Said a formal NON-CON, whose rich stock of grace Lies forward expos'd in shop-window of face, Ah! pity your soul, come, be of our sect, For then you are safe, and may plead you're elect.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Twrf*, s.v. NON-CONFORMIST—a discontented person, who will think and act differently from all others.

1843. CRABB ROBINSON, in *Diary*, 7 April, ii. 239 (3rd ed. 1872). So it is that extremes meet, and that we NON-CONS are in accord with the High Church divines.

NON-EST-INVENTUS, *phr.* (popular).—Absent.—DE QUINCEY, *Murder as one of the Fine Arts*.

NON-LICET, *adj. phr.* (Winchester College).—Illegal; unbecfitting a Wykehamist: e.g. Don't sport NON-LICET notions.

NONNY (NONINO, or HEY, NONNY, NONNY), *subs.* (old).—1. A refrain once used to cover indelicate allusions.

1593. DRAYTON, *Eccel.* These NONINOS of beastly ribauldry.

c.1620-50. *Percy Folio MS.*, 201. Cupid bids itt shold bee soe, because all men were made for her HINONONINO.

c.1625. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Hum. Liout.*, iv. 2. That noble mind to melt away and moulder For a HEY NONNY, NONNY.

2. (old).—A simpleton: see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD.

NONPLUST, *adv.* (old).—At the end of one's tether. Also AT POINT NONPLUS.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversation*, ii. Faith, Tom is NONPLUST; he looks plaguily down in the mouth.

1821. EGAN, *Life in Lond.*, ii. i. 147. Remember that he is not yet out of Pupil's Straits, and must not, as you say, be blown up at POINT NONPLUS.

NONSENSE, *subs.* (old).—1. Money: see ACTUAL and GILT.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*. Shell out the NONSENSE: half a quid Will speak more truth than all your palaver.

2. (old).—See quot.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* (EGAN), s.v. NONSENSE. Melting butter in a wig. Also, fastening the door with a boiled carrot.

3. (Eton College).—A small division of the Third Form.

NONSUCH, *THE*, *subs.* (venery).—

1. The female *prudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

2. (old colloquial).—See quot.

1785. Ital. *una coppa d'oro*.

1767. RAY, *Proverbs* (BOHN), 172, s.v.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. NONE-SUCH, one that is unequalled; frequently applied ironically.

NONJUROR, *subs.* (old).—See quot.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NONJURORE. Clergymen and others (Officers in the Army, Navy, etc.) That refus'd to take the Oaths to King William and Queen Mary, and were turn'd out of their Livings and Employments.

NOODLE, *subs.* (common).—A simpleton. Also BILLY NOODLE. See BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD. —ASH (1775); BEE (1823).

1843. MONCRIEFF, *The Scamps of London*, ii. 3. Half-and-half know-nothing NOODLE.

c.1845. SYDNEY SMITH *Review of Bentham on Fallacies*. The whole of these fallacies may be gathered together in a little oration which we will denominate the NOODLES' oration.

1864. FORSYTH, *Life of Cicero*, xi. He was such a NOODLE he did not know the value of what he had bought.

1892. G. M. FENN, *The New Mistress*, xv. Making a great NOODLE of yourself.

1670. RAY, *Proverbs*, 245. NORFOLK DUMPLINGS. This refers (*sic*) not to the stature of their bodies; but to the fare they commonly feed on and much delight in.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. NORFOLK DUMPLING, a nick name or term of jocular reproach to a Norfolk man, dumplings being a favourite food in that country.

NORFOLK HOWARD, *subs. phr.* (common).—A bug.

[From (says John Camden Hotten) an advt. in *Times*, 23 June 1862, as follows:—I, Norfolk Howard, heretofore called and known by the name of Joshua Bug, late of Epsom, in the county of Surrey, now of Wakefield, in the county of York, and landlord of the Swan Tavern, in the same county, do hereby give notice that on the 20th day of this present month of June, for and on behalf of myself and heirs, lawfully begotten, I did wholly abandon the use of the surname of Bug and assumed, took, and used, and am determined . . . to be called and known by the name of Norfolk Howard only . . . duly enrolled by me in the High Court of Chancery.—Dated this 23 day of June, 1862.—NORFOLK HOWARD, late JOSHUA BUG.—Diligent search in the *Times* of the date mentioned has failed to unearth the document. At the same time it is certain that a Joshua Bug lived at Epsom about the date mentioned.]

1870. *Figaro*, 19 Oct. Those entomological pests that are euphemistically called NORFOLK HOWARDS. *Ibid.* 1871, 26 Dec. A traveller at a hotel, while registering his name, saw a lively NORFOLK HOWARD making his way briskly across the page. In consternation he declared that he had . . . never before stopped at a place where a NORFOLK HOWARD looked over the hotel register to see where his room was.

1872. *Erse*, 27 July. Negligent domestic servants, lodging-house keepers, bathing arrangements, bad drainage, NORFOLK HOWARDS, careless boatmen, and a thousand other topics will be seized upon as pegs on which to hang a series of grumblings.

1885. SALA, in *Daily Telegraph*, 14 August, 573. 'Bed bugs,' the convertible term for which is 'chintzes,' are the disagreeable insects known in modern polite English as NORFOLK HOWARDS.

1892. *Society*, 6 Aug., 757/1. Such writers as this, says the lord of verse, are the lice on the locks of literature. Also I should presume they are the flea down the back of Poetry, and the NORFOLK HOWARD in the shirt of Art.

2. In pl. (military).—The Norfolk Regiment, formerly the 9th Foot.

NORFOLK-MOG, *subs. phr.* (old).—A kind of strong ale.

1726. VANBRUGH, *Journey to London*, l. 2. Here's NORFOLK MOG to be had at next door.

c.1745. SWIFT, *Upon The Horrid Plot*. Dog Walpole laid a quart of MOG on't He'd either make a hog or dog on't.

NOR-LOCH TROUT, *subs. phr.* (Scots').—See quot.

1808. JAMIESON, *Dict.* s.v. A cant phrase formerly denoting a joint or leg of mutton, ordered for a club of citizens who used to meet in one of the *closets* leading down to the North loch. The invitation was given in these terms: Will ye gang and eat a NOR-LOCH TROUT? The reason of the name is obvious. This was the only species of *fish* which the North Loch, on which the shambles were situated, could supply.

NORP, *verb.* (theatrical).—To put in phrases that will 'fetch' the gallery; to PILR IT UP (*q.v.*).

NORTH, *adj.* (nautical).—1. Strong; good; well fortified; usually of grog. Hence DUE NORTH = neat; TOO FAR NORTH = drunk.

1864. *Glasgow Herald*, 9 Nov. 'Review of Hottens' Slang Dict.' An old salt delights to order his steward to make his grog 'a little more NORTH,' 'another point, steward'; and so on he may go until the beverage is DUE NORTH as the needle.

2. (common).—Intelligent; FLY (*q.v.*); UP TO SNUFF (*q.v.*). Cf. Fr. *perdre le nord* = to be confused.

1700. *Step to the Bath* [quoted in ASHTON, *Social Life in Reign of Q. Anne*, v. ii. p. 168]. I ask'd what Countrey-man my Landlord was? answer was made, Full NORTH; and Faith 'twas very Evident, for he had put the *Yorkshire* most damnably upon us.

1859. SALA, *Gaslight and Daylight*, iii. p. 39. Her husband—who, however far gone he may be in liquor, is a long way too FAR NORTH to 'list in reality.

NORTHALLERTONS. *See* quot.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. NORTHALLERTONS. Spurs; that place, like Rippon, being famous for making them.

NORTH COUNTRY COMPLIMENT, *subs. phr.* (common).—A gift not wanted by the giver nor valued by the receiver.

NORTH-EASTER, *subs.* (old American).—A New England sixpence or shilling *temp.* Charles I. [On one side were the letters N.E.]

NORTH-EYE, *subs. phr.* (showmen's).—[As in quot., but failure has followed all attempts to ascertain the meaning].

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippe*, xiv. Don't get your back up only having a bit of chaff with your NORTH EYE.

NORTHUMBERLAND, LORD NORTH-UMBERLAND'S ARMS, *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. NORTHUMBERLAND. LORD NORTH-UMBERLAND'S ARMS; a black eye: so called in the last century.

NORWAY NECKCLOTH, *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, NORWAY NECKCLOTH, the pillory, usually made of Norway fir.

NORWICHER, *subs.* (old).—An unfair drinker: *i.e.*, a man who, taking first pull at a tankard, does not draw breath till he has pretty well emptied the pot.

1896. *Athenaeum*, 15 Aug., p. 168. Thirsty souls! there was no resisting it. Half-a-dozen old NORWICHERS, after a bout of this sort, would become as hilarious and would dance as uproariously as half-a-dozen Egyptians, full of the barleywine of Memphis.

NOSE, *subs.* (old).—1. An informer. Fr., *une riflette*; *une tante*; *une soulasse*, and *une sondeur*.

1789. PARKER, *Life's Painter*, 167, s.v. NOSE. Snitch.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v.

1828. BEE, *Living Picture of London*, 286. They are frequently made use of as NOSES by the officers.

1836. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends* (ed. 1862), 356. Now Bill, . . . Who as his last speech sufficiently shows Was a 'regular trump'—did not like to turn NOSE?

1838. REYNOLDS, *Pickwick Abroad*, 223. I was never a NOSE for the regulars came Whenever a pannie was done.

2. (police).—A paid spy; A SHADOW (*q.v.*); a NARK (*q.v.*). Also NOSER.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v. A person who, seeing one or more suspicious characters in the street, makes a point of watching them, in order to frustrate any attempt they may make, or cause their apprehension.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. NOSE.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *London, Lab. and Lënd. Poor*, i. 391. I live in Westminster, at a padding-ken. I'd rather not tell you where, not I've anything to fear, but people might think I was a NOSE, if anybody came after me.

1862. *Cornhill Mag.*, ii. 336. There are a few men and women among thieves called NOSERS. They are so called because they are in the secret pay of the police, giving information when the information will not lead to the crimination of themselves.

1877. J. GREENWOOD, *Dick Temple*. How could they know that there wasn't a NOSE—that is a detective p'lceman—there in disguise?

1824. *Saturday Review*, 9 Feb. 178. To bring a hidden crime to light by means of the policeman's NOSE.

Verb. (old).—1. See quots. 1598 and 1785.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet*, iv. 3. You shall NOSE him as you go up the stairs into the lobby.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*, *Nasare*, to smell, to scent, TO NOSE.

1728. BAILEY, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. NOSE, TO NOSE a stink, to smell it.

2. (common).—To pry; to suspect; to discover.

1651. CARTWRIGHT, *Ordinary*, v. 5. NOSING a little treason 'gainst the King.

1662. *Rump Songs*, i. 60. We will thrust them out of the Main-yard, If they do but NOSE us.

1664. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1st ed). Must these same *Trojan Rascals* NOSE me, Because the *Fates* (forsooth) oppose me?

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. v. You are determined no one shall NOSE your ideas. *Ibid.* Their eyes were on the roll, under an apprehension that the beaks were "on the NOSE."

1830. *Westminster Rev.*, April, *The Six Acts*. The public that NOSED the 'Six Acts' gave the title that has stuck by them; and condemned them to everlasting remembrance by the energy of its simplicity.

1830. MONCRIEFF, *The Heart of London*, II. 1. I NOSE: up to snuff.

1838. GLASCOCK, *Land Sharks and Sea Gulls*, II. 103. Go to the landlord an' ax if he knows the cove:—t' won't do to be NOSED, you know.

1880. *Detroit Free Press*, 16 Feb. He said he didn't like one NOSING around downstairs.

3. (thieves').—To inform.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, 278. No, no, no! NO NOSING.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* (EGAN), s.v. NOSE. His pall NOSED, and he was twisted for a crack; his confederate turned king's evidence, and he was hanged for burglary.

1829. *The Lag's Lament* (FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), III.). I advise you TO NOSE on your pals.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, v. I. Nor was he ever known to NOSE upon any of his accomplices; or in other words to betray them.

4. (old).—See quot. 1775.

1775. ASH, *Dict.*, s.v. NOSE. To bluster, to look big.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.

5. (old).—See quot.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v. NOSE. . . TO NOSE UPON any one, is to tell of anything he has said or done with a view to injure him, or to benefit yourself.

[Many colloquialisms are here conveniently grouped: e.g., TO PUT ONE'S NOSE OUT OF JOINT = to supplant; TO WIPE ONE'S NOSE = (1) to cozen; (2) to affront; and (3) in medicine, to discover an error in diagnosis and alter treatment (the mistaken practitioner is said to have his NOSE WIPED); TO PUT ONE'S NOSE IN THE MANGER = to eat; TO FOLLOW ONE'S NOSE = to go straight forward; TO LEAD BY THE NOSE = to govern; TO PAY THROUGH THE NOSE = to pay extravagantly; TO PUT ONE'S NOSE INTO ANYTHING = to meddle; TO TURN UP ONE'S NOSE = to disdain; TO CAST IN (OR TO PLAY WITH) ONE'S NOSE = to twit, or to ridicule; TO HAVE ONE'S NOSE ON THE GRINDSTONE = to be held at a disadvantage; TO BE BORED THROUGH THE NOSE = to be cheated; IN SPITE OF YOUR NOSE = in your teeth; TO BITE (OR TO CUT OFF) ONE'S NOSE TO SPITE ONE'S FACE = to be revenged to one's own detriment; TO TELL (OR TO COUNT) NOSES = to appeal to numbers; TO MAKE A PERSON'S NOSE SWELL = to make jealous; TO MEASURE NOSES = to meet; TO TAKE PEPPER IN THE NOSE = (1) to take offence; and (2) to mistrust; AS PLAIN AS THE NOSE ON ONE'S FACE = beyond argument; A GOOD NOSE = a smell-feast; TO MAKE A BRIDGE OF SOMEONE'S NOSE = to pass in drinking, also to supersede; TO HOLD UP ONE'S NOSE = to be proud; A NOSE OF WAX = a complaisant or accommodating disposition; CANDLES (OR DEWDROPS) IN THE NOSE = snots; ON THE NOSE = on the look out; A NOSE TO LIGHT CANDLES AT = a drunkard's nose, a poop-lantern; YOUR NOSE UP MY ARSE = an expression of supreme contempt; A LONG NOSE IS A

LADY'S LIKING (length above being held to indicate length below); TO SEE THE NOSE CHEESE FIRST—to refuse contemptuously; MY NOSE ITCHES!—a jocular invitation to kiss, the retort being 'I knew I was going to sneeze, be cursed, or kissed by a fool,' but *see* quot. 1708-10; and so forth.

1542. UDALL, tr. of *Apophth. of Erasmus*, p. 65. A feloe had CAST HIM IN THE NOSE, that he gave so large monie to soche a naughtie drabbe.

1570. ELDETON, *Lenten Stuffe*. Pepper ys come to a marvelous pryse, Som say, thys Lenton season; And every body that ys wyse May soone perceve the reson; For every man takes PEPPER IN THE NOSE For the waggyng of a strawe, God knowse.

1580. TARTLTON, *Newes out of Purg.*, 10. Myles, hearing him name the baker, took straight PEPPER IN THE NOSE, and, starting up . . . swore I by cockesbread, the baker; and he that saies to the contrary, heere stand I, Myles, the bakers man, to have the proudest cardinall of you all by the eares.

1581. RICHE, *Farewell* [NARES]. Who . . . was verie well assured that it could bee no other than his owne manne that had thrust HIS NOSE SO FARRE OUT OF JOYNT.

1591. NASHE, *Prognostication* [GROSART (1883-4), ii. 167]. Some shal be so sun burnt with sitting in the Alehouse, that their NOSES SHALL BEE ABLE TO LIGHT A CANDLE.

1598. FLORIO, *World of Wordes*, s.v. *Montare su la Bica*, to TAKE PEPPER IN THE NOSE, to be sore angrie.

1602. DECKER, *Satiromastix*, in *Wks.* (1873), i. 216. Yonder bald Adams, is PUT MY NOSE FROM HIS IOYNT; but Adam I will be even to you.

1604. SHAKESPEARE, *Winter's Tale*, iv. 4, 832. Though authority be a stubborn bear, yet he is oft LED BY THE NOSE with gold.

1606. *Wily Beguiled* (DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1874), ix. 242). There is one Sophos, a brave gentleman; he'll WIPE YOUR son Peter's NOSE of Mistress Lelia.

1607. MARSTON, *What You Will*, Induction. He's a chollerick gentleman: he will TAKE PEPPER IN THE NOSE instantly.

1607. *Puritan*, v. 2. Now all the Knights NOSES ARE PUT OUT OF JOINT.

1608. ARMIN, *Nest of Ninnies* [NARES]. Standing on tip-toe, looking toward the door to behold a rival, that he would PUT HIS NOSE OUT OF JOINT.

1612. *Passenger of Benvenuto* [NARES]. Strange children, TO WIPE HER HUSBANDS OWNE CHILDRENS NOSE of their share in his goods.

1614. BERNARD, *Terence in English* [NARES]. And why so, I pray you, but that you love him better than me? And fearing now least this wench which is brought over hither should PUT YOUR NOSE OUT THE JOYNT, comming betwene home and you, and so have such a trimme fellow her selfe.

1614. BERNARD, *Terence in English* [NARES]. But loe, nowe comes forth the very destruction of our substance: WHO WIPES OUR NOSES of all that we should have. *Ibid.* I'VE WIPED THE OLD MEN'S NOSES of their money.

1639. *Optick Glasse of Humors* [NARES]. A man is teisty, and anger wrinkles his nose, such a man takes PEPPER IN THE NOSE.

1639. MASSINGER, *Unnat. Combat*, v. 2. But vows with you being like: To your religion, a NOSE OF WAX, To be turned every way.

1642. HOWELL, *Forreine Travell*, p. 44. I have known divers Dutch Gentlemen grosly guld by this cheat, and som English BORD also THROUGH THE NOSE this way.

1646. RANDOLPH, *Jealous Lovers* [NARES]. Shee was soe NOSE-wip't, slighted, and disdain'd, Under honour's cloak soe closely muffled, And in my rare projects soe shuffled.

1660. HOWELL, *Parl. of Beasts*, p. 35. Those fears and jealousies appeared afterwards to every common man AS PLAIN AS THE NOSE ON HIS FACE to bee but meer forgeries and suppositious things.

d.1660. BR. GAUDEN, *Tears of the Church*, p. 105. The polle and number of the names . . . I think to be but the number of the Beast, if we onely TELL NOSES, and not consider reasons.

1662. PEPPY, *Diary*, 31 May. The King is pleased enough with her: which I fear, will put Madam Castlemaine's NOSE OUT OF JOYNT.

1662. *Rump Songs* [NARES]. Alas, what take ye PEPPER IN THE NOSE To see king Charles his colours worne in pose?

1664. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1st ed.), 60. There lies your way, FOLLOW YOUR NOSE.

1675. COTTON, *Scoffer Scoffi*, in *Wks.* (1725), p. 182. SPIGHT OF YOUR NOSE, and will ye, nil ye, I will go home again, that will I.

1693. WOOD, *Fasti Oxon.*, ii. Too easy, like A NOSE OF WAX, to be turned on that side.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. NOSE. FOLLOW YOUR NOSE, said in a jeer to those that know not the way, and are bid to smell it out, as we say to smell a post. *Ibid.* He is LED BY THE NOSE. Of one that is easily imposed upon. *Ibid.* AS PLAIN AS THE NOSE IN YOUR FACE. *Ibid.* He has a good NOSE. Of a Smell Feast. *Ibid.* YOU MAKE A BRIDGE OF HIS NOSE. When you pass your next Neighbor in Drinking or one is prefer'd over another's head. *Ibid.* He HOLDS UP HIS NOSE, of one that is Haughty, and carries his Head high.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversations*, i. FOLLOW YOUR NOSE; go, enquire among the Servants. *Ibid.* *Neverout*. Pray, my Lord, don't MAKE A BRIDGE OF MY NOSE. *Ibid.* *Miss*. Anything for a quiet life; MY NOSE RTCH'D, and I knew I should drink wine, or kiss a fool.

1730. *New Cant. Dict.*, s.v. NOSE.

d.1745. SWIFT, *To Gay*. Nor think yourself secure in doing wrong By TELLING NOSES with a party strong.

1731. *Windsor Medley*, 13. If you FOLLOW YOUR NOSE, you're as sure as a Gun.

1764. O'HARA, *Midas*, i. 4. Aye, Pol, the hind, PUT OUT OF JOINT OUR NOSES.

1767. RAY, *Proverbs* [BOHN], 151, s.v. TO MAKE A BRIDGE OF ONE'S NOSE. i.e. To intercept one's trencher, cup, or the like; or to offer or pretend to do kindnesses to one, and then pass him by, and do it to another; to lay hold upon and serve himself of that which was intended for another.

1781. COWPER, *Truth*. . . With slipshod heels & DEWDROP AT HIS NOSE.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. NOSE; TO PUT ONE'S NOSE OUT OF JOINT, to rival one in the favor of any person. *Ibid.* TO FOLLOW ONE'S NOSE, to go straight forward. *Ibid.* He is LED BY THE NOSE, he is governed. *Ibid.* AS PLAIN AS THE NOSE ON YOUR FACE, evidently to be seen. *Ibid.* TO MAKE A BRIDGE OF ANYONE'S NOSE, to pass by him in drinking.

1833. LYTTON, *Godolphin*, ii. iii. To find their NOSES PUT OUT OF JOINT by that little mischief-making interloper!

1838. NEAL, *Charcoal Sketches* [DE VERE]. At all events he had his NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE, an operation which should make men keen.

1844. BUCKSTONE, *The Maid with Milking Pail*. Now MY NOSE IS PUT COMPLETELY OUT OF JOINT. No niceties—no pudding—no fresh salt butter—no cabbage soup—no nothing!

1859. KINGSLEY, *Geoffrey Hamlyn*, xxxiii. Lesbia gave herself the airs, and received the privileges of being the handsomest woman in those parts, till Alice came, and PUT HER NOSE OUT OF JOINT, for which she never forgave her.

1860. GEO. ELIOT, *Mill on the Floss*, iii. 5. TO TURN UP HIS NOSE at his father's customers, and to be a fine gentleman.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, vi. I like to see a fellow an honest grubber at breakfast and dinner; but you've always got YOUR NOSE IN THE MANGER.

1869. YEATS, *Fairy Tales of the Irish Peasantry*, 237. From this . . . he KEPT BILL'S NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE.

1870. *Figaro*, 26 Oct. The Prussians, to whom an immediate supply of these is necessary, have to pay what is vulgarly called THROUGH THE NOSE.

1872. DE VERE, *Americanisms*, 620, s.v. NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE, a very expressive phrase, denoting the ill-treatment received at the hands of a successful adversary who takes full advantage of his triumph.

1888. ROLF BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery under Arms*, xxiii. These sort of men PAY THROUGH THE NOSE for everything.

NOSE-AND-CHIN, *subs. phr* (rhyming).—A penny: a WIN (*q.v.*).

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, vii. In short, when Dumkins was caught out, and Podder stumped out, All-Muggleton had NOTCHED, some fifty-four, while the score of the Dingley Dellers was as blank as their faces.

NOTE, subs. (American).—1. A bon-bon.

2. (American).—A singer.—MATSELL (1859).

NOTER, subs. (Harrow School).—A notebook.

NOTE-SHAVER, subs. phr. (American).—A usurer; a usurious compositor: specifically a WILD-CAT BANK (*q.v.*) purchasing notes of hand at excessive rates of discount. [Obsolete since the regulation of banks by Congress.] See PAPER.

NOTHING. See DANCE, NECK, and SAY.

NOTICE TO QUIT, subs. phr. (old).—See quot.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. NOTICE TO QUIT. A cant phrase. When a person is in danger of dying from bad health, it is said, he has received A NOTICE TO QUIT.

NOTION, subs. (Winchester College).—1. A word, usage, or phrase peculiar to Winchester College.

1891. *Notions* [Title].

2. (American).—A trifle; a nick-nack: specifically (in *pl.*)=wares in general.

1719. WARD, *London Spy*, i. 2. s.v.

1825. NEAL, *Bro. Jonathan*, II. 22. The tallow, corn, cotton, hams, hides, and so forth, which we had got in exchange for a load of Yankee NOTIONS.

1836. MICHAEL SCOTT, *Cruise of Midge*, 300. A cargo of flour and NOTIONS, consigned to Macal, Walker, and Co.

1840. DANA, *Two Years before the Mast*, xxxv. A cargo of fresh provisions, mules, tin bake-pans, and other NOTIONS.

1846. MARRYAT, *Peter Simple*, III. iii. [1846], 325. Her cargo consisted of what the Americans call NOTIONS: that is in English an assorted cargo.

1866. HOWELLS, *Venetian Life*, ix. Fruitstands, and stands for the sale of crockery, and—as I must say for want of a better word, if there is any—NOTIONS, were in a state of tasteful readiness.

1867. SMYTH, *Sailor's Word Book*, 501, s.v. NOTIONS. An American sea-term for a cargo in sorts; thus a NOTION vessel on the west coast of America is a perfect bazaar: but one, which sold a mixture—logwood, bad claret, and sugar—to the priests for sacrament wine had to run for it.

1894. C. KENNAN, in *The Century*, xxxviii. 82. American goods of all kinds bought from California, suddenly made their appearance in the village shops; and . . . I saw the American tin-ware, lanterns, and YANKEE NOTIONS.

1888. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 21 Jan. Thursday, January 20, regular auction sale of dry goods, furnishing goods, NOTIONS, hats and caps, etc.

1891. *Sportsman*, 1 April. To examine the remedies which came from the land of the Stars and Stripes, the home of Colonel Buncombe and of innumerable NOTIONS.

NOTIONAL, adj. (colloquial).—Imaginative; whimsical; sentimental. Also NOTIONATE.

1691-92. *Gentlemen's Journal*, Mar., 5. The lady tip'd (perhaps) out of her NOTIONAL love, was downright bent for a more substantial one.

1728. BAILEY, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v.

1881. HOWELLS, *Dr. Breen's Practice*, ix. She's been a little NOTIONAL, she's had her head addled by women's talk, and she's in a queer freak.

NOTTAMIZER, subs. (old).—A dissecting surgeon.

1828. SKEATON, *Doings in London*. At length his affectionate rib acknowledged that she had sold the corpse saying she had no idea the NOTTAMIZERS would have given so much for poor John's body.

NOZZLE, *subs.* (pugilists').—The nose : *see* CONK.—GROSE (1785).

1871. G. MEREDITH, *Harry Richmond*, vii. 79 (1886). Fight, my merry one; she takes punishment, the prize-fighter sang out. First blood to you, Klomi; uncork his claret, my duck; straight at the NOZZLE, he sees more lamps than shine in London, I warrant.

Verb. (tailors').—1. To shrink : *e.g.*, TO NOZZLE THE BOTTOMS = to shrink the fronts of trousers. Also (2), to pawn.

NTM (or NTH PLUS ONE), *subs.* (University).—*See* quot.

1864. BREWER, *Phrase and Fable*, s.v. . . . NTH, to the utmost degree. Thus *Cut to the Nth* means wholly unnoticed by a friend. The expression is taken from the index of a mathematical formula, where *n* stands for any number, and *n plus 1* more than any number.

NUB, *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. The neck.—B. E. (c. 1696); BAILEY (1728); GROSE (1785); MATSELL (1859).

2. (old).—Copulation : *see* GREENS and RIDE.—GROSE (1785).

3. (Old Cant).—A husband.

Verb. (Old Cant).—To hang : *see* LADDER.

c. 1712. *Budg and Snudg Song* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 32]. When that he hath NUBBED us.

1743. FIELDING, *Jonathan Wild*, iv. ii. I am committed for the filing lay, man, and we shall be both NUBBED together.

NUBBIN, *subs.* (American).—A remnant; a small remainder.

NUBBING, *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. Hanging.—B. E. (c. 1696); *New Cant. Dict.* (1725); GROSE (1785).

2. (Old Cant).—Copulation : *see* GREENS and RIDE.

NUBBING-CHEAT (or NUBBLING-CHIT), *subs.* (Old Cant).—The gallows, whence NUBBING = a hanging; NUBBING-COVE = the hangman; and NUBBING-KEN = the Sessions House.—B. E. (c. 1696); *New Cant. Dict.* (1725); GROSE (1785).

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. Abraham's balsam (in botany = a species of willow); Beilby's ball-room; Chates (chattes or chats); City stage (formerly in front of Newgate; crap; deadly nevergreen; derrick; forks; government sign-post; hanging-cheat; horse foaled by an acorn; hotel door-posts; the ladder; leafless-tree; mare with three legs; Moll Blood (old Scots'); morning-drop; prop (Punch and Judy); the queer-'em (queer-'un queer-'um); scrag; scrag-squeezer; sheriff's picture-frame; squeezer; stalk (Punch and Judy); the stifler; the swing; three-legged mare; three trees; topping cheat; Tower-hill vinegar (the swordsmen's block); tree that bears fruit all the year round; tree with three corners; treyning-cheat; triple-tree; Tuck'em Fair; Tyburn cross; widow; wooden-legged mare.

FRENCH SYNONYMS. *L'abbaye de Monte-à-regret* (= Mount Sorrowful Church; also *l'abbaye de Monte-à-rebours*, and *l'abbaye de Saint-Pierre = cinq pierres*, the five flag-stones in front of La Roquette); *la bascule*; *le béquille* (= crutch); *la béquillarde*; *la butte-à-regret* (= Heavy-Arse-Hill); *les deux mâts*, or *le haut mât* (old); *l'échelle* (= LADDER, *q.v.*); *la fenetre* (in allusion to the aperture into which falls the knife); *le glant*; *la jambe*; *la*

NULL-GROPPERS, *subs. phr.* (old).—
See quot.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN],
s.v. NULL GROPPERS. Persons who sweep
the streets, in search of old iron, nails, etc.

NULLING-COVE, *subs.* (pugilists').—
A pugilist. — VAUX (1819);
GROSE (1823).

NULLI SECUNDUS CLUB, *subs. phr.*
(military). — The Coldstream
Guards. Also known as "The
Coldstreamers."

NUMANS, *subs.* (Old Cant).—New-
gate.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Mark-all*
(H. Club's Repr. 1874), 39, s.v.

NUMBER. See MESS.

TO CONSULT THE BOOK OF
NUMBERS, *verb. phr.* (old Parlia-
mentary).—To call for a division;
to put the matter to the vote.—
GROSE (1785).

NUMBER 9, *subs. phr.* (old).—
The Fleet Prison. [No. 9, Fleet
Market].—BEE (1823).

NUMBER NIP, *subs.* (venery).
—The female *puendum*: see
MONOSYLLABLE.

NUMBER ONE, *subs.* (collo-
quial).—1. Self. TO TAKE CARE
OF NUMBER ONE = to look
after one's own interests.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, xlii.
Some conjurors say that number three is
the magic number, and some say number
seven. It's neither, my friend, neither.
It's NUMBER ONE. Ha! ha! cried Mr.
Bolter. NUMBER ONE for ever.

1848. LOWELL, *A Fable for Critics*,
48. Like most fathers, Bull hates to see
NUMBER ONE Displacing himself in the
mind of his son.

1871. *Judy*, 29 July. If a man
doesn't TAKE CARE OF No. 1, he will soon
have O to take care of!

1873. *Spectator*, 22 Mar., 379, col. 1.
It is in the early chapters, too, that the
author speaks of himself, seldom referring
to NUMBER ONE afterwards—for a less
egotistical book we have seldom seen.

1886. KENNARD, *Girl in Br. Habit*,
xi. I was just beginning to find NUMBER
ONE remarkably bad company, and am
most grateful to you for your visit. It will
do me an immensity of good.

2. (nursery).—Urination; also
a chamber-pot.

3. (prison).—The cat-o'-nine-
tails.

1889. *Answers*, 9 March, 233, 3.
Punishment was ordered by the Directors
—the Governor has no power to order
flogging—and took the shape of two dozen
of No. 1.

To be at NUMBER ONE, LON-
DON, *verb. phr.* (common).—To
have the menstrual discharge: see
FLAG.

NUMBER SIX. See NEWGATE
KNOCKER.

NUMBER TWO, *subs. phr.* (pri-
son).—1. The birch.

1889. *Answers*, 9 Mar., 233, 3. No.
2, by the way, is the birch.

2. (nursery).—Evacuation.

NUMPS, *subs.* (old).—A dolt; a
fool: see BUFFLE and CABBAGE-
HEAD.

1614. JONSON, *Bartholomew Fair*,
s.v.

1673. PARKER, *Reproof of Rehearsal*
Trans, p. 85. Take hearts, NUMPS! here
is not a word of the stocks.

NUMS (or NUMMS), *subs.* (Old
Cant).—A clean collar on a dirty
shirt. Cf. DICKEY. — B. E.
(c. 1696); *New Cant. Dict.*
(1725); GROSE (1785). Also as
adj. = sham. — MATSELL (1859).

NUNYARE, *subs.* (showmen's).—See quot.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *London Lab.*, vol. III. 301. [Ethiopian serenader *log.*] We could then, after our NUNYARE and buvare (that's what we call eat and drink, and I think it's broken Italian), carry home our 5/- or 6/- each, easy. *Ibid.*, 149. We [strolling actors] call breakfast, dinner, tea, supper, all of them NUNYARE; and all beer, brandy, water, or soup, are beuvare.

NUP (or **NUPSON**), *subs.*—A fool: see **BUFFLE** and **CABBAGE-HEAD**.

1580. *Lingua* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays*, v. 150]. 'Tis he indeed, the vilest NUP; yet the fool loves me exceedingly. *Ibid.*, v. 238. I say Phantastes is a foolish transparent gull; a mere fanatic NUPSON.

1596. B. JONSON, *Every Man in his Humour*, iv. 4. O that I were so happy as to light upon a NUPSON now.

1616. BEN JONSON, *Devil is an Ass*, ii. 2. Who having matched with such a NUPSON.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.

NUPPENCE, *subs.* (American).—Nothing. [From 'no pence,' on the model of 'tuppence' = 2d.]

1886. A. LANG, in *Longmans' Mag.*, VII. 551. The Americans can get our books, and do get them, and republish them and give us nothing—that awful minus quantity, NUPPENCE!

NUPTIATE, *verb.* (American).—To marry; TO GET HITCHED (*q.v.*).

NUREMBURG-EGG, *subs. phr.* (old).—An early kind of watch, oval in shape. [Invented, c. 1500, in Nuremburg].

NURLY, *adj. and adv.* (American).—Ill-tempered; cross-grained. [From 'gnarly']. —DE VERE (1872).

NURSE, *subs.* (common).—1. An old man's maid, frequently doing double duty—nurse and **SMOCK SERVANT** (*q.v.*).

2. (nautical).—See quot.

1867. SMYTH, *Sailor's Word-Book*, 502, s.v. **NURSE**. An able first lieutenant, who in former times had charge of a young boy-captain of interest, but possessing no knowledge for command.

3. See **WET-NURSE**.

Verb. (Old Cant).—1. To cozen.—GROSE (1785).

2. (billiards').—To keep the three balls close in play so as to score successive cannons. Hence, **NURSERY-BUSINESS** (*q.v.*).

3. (omnibus drivers').—To cheat an opposition bus of passengers by driving close in front or behind; two vehicles are generally employed TO **NURSE** the victim.

1858. *Morning Chronicle*, 8 Mar. The cause of the delay was that defendant was waiting to **NURSE** one of their omnibuses.

1863. The DEAN OF CANTERBURY, in *Good Words*, p. 197. Many words are by rule hitched off with two commas; one before and one behind; **NURSED**, as the Omnibus Company would call it.

1884. *Echo*, 7 May, 1, 4. Another phenomenal witness, a 'bus conductor, did not even know what **NURSING** rivals meant.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippe*, xvi. Some of 'em wanted to **NURSE** me, but I managed to give the mare a touch of the spur and she flew out, the starter calling me to account.

1889. *Man of the World*, 29 June. Only a fortnight ago I witnessed an elderly man run over and killed in Queen Victoria Street through this very cause. Surely a man's life is worth more than the gratification of the ambition of a **NURSING** omnibus driver.

1900. *Daily Telegraph*, 22 Mar., 4, 6. A case of alleged **NURSING** by rival omnibuses occupied a large part of the afternoon sitting.

TO BE AT **NURSE**, *verb. phr.* (old).—To be in the hands of trustees.—GROSE (1785).

1887. HENLEY, *Culture in the Shams*, 'Ballade,' iii. The Grosvenor's NUTS—it is, indeed.

1893. MILLIKEN, 'Arvy Ballads, 4. It's NUTS to 'ook on to a swell.

7. in *pl.* (Stock Exchange).—Barcelona Tramway Shares.

8. (common).—A drink ; a GO (*q.v.*) : *see* DRINKS.

Verb. (old).—1. To fondle ; to ogle ; to SPOON (*q.v.*).—VAUX (1819).

1890. *London Mag.*, i. 26. Always NUTTING each other.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. NUTS. The cove's NUTTING the blown ; the man is trying to please the girl.

2. (pugilists'). — To strike on the head.

TO BE NUTS (OR DEAD NUTS) ON, *verb. phr.* (common). — 1. *See* quot. 1819.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v. NUTS UPON IT, to be very much pleased or gratified with any object, adventure, or overture ; so a person who conceives a strong inclination for another of the opposite sex, is said to be quite NUTTY, or NUTS UPON him or her.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. NUTS. She's NUTS UPON her cull ; she's pleased with her cully.

1853. *Diogenes*, ii. 30. It's rich nutty flavour I'm NUTS ON no more.

1860. *Punch's Book of British Costumes*, xxxviii. p. 219. Or cowls, but left their heads with nothing but their hair to cover them. The fact was that the dandies were so NUTS UPON their 'nuts' that they did not like to hide their fair (or dark) proportions.

1873. BLACK, *Princess of Thule*, xi. My aunt is awful NUTS ON Marcus Aurelius ; I beg your pardon, you don't know the phrase ; my aunt makes Marcus Aurelius her Bible.

1882. *Punch*, LXXXII. 177. I am NUTS UPON Criminal Cases, Perlice News, you know, and all that.

1893. MILLIKEN, 'Arvy Ballads, 10. I'm not NUTS ON Bohem.

2. (common). — To be very skilful or dexterous.

3. (common).—To be particular ; to detest.

1890. *Punch*, 22 Feb. He's NUTS ON Henery George.

TO CRACK A NUT (Old Scots').

—*See* quot.

1889. *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. viii. 437. In country gentlemen's houses [in Scotland] in the olden time, when a fresh guest arrived he was met by the laird, who made him CRACK A NUT—that is, drink a silver-mounted cocoa-nut shell full of claret.

THE NUT, *subs. phr.* (nautical).

—*See* quot.

1891. *Daily Telegraph*, 27 Mar. Other notes and time-honoured hostelries of Portsmouth town are affectionately commemorated, if not by absolute reproduction, by borrowing their signs. Thus, in one corner, may be discovered the KEPPEL'S HEAD, known to all her Majesty's navy as the NUT, but perhaps hardly to be recognised in its Chelsea guise—a temperance café.

A NUT TO CRACK, *phr.* (colloquial).—A problem to solve ; a puzzle to explain ; a difficulty to overcome.

1843. LONGFELLOW, *Spanish Student*. I've NUTS TO CRACK, but where shall I find almonds.

1849. LYTTON, *Castles*, i. i. To others this NUT of such a character was hard TO CRACK.

1897. *Daily Mail*, 26 Oct., 4, 3. The information gained by the recent gun-boat reconnaissance up river . . . shows that this position will be a hard NUT TO CRACK.

OFF ONE'S NUT, *phr.* (common).

—1. Crazy.

1876. SIMS, *Dagonet Ballads* (Polly). Or to go OFF THEIR NUTS about ladies as dies for young fellers as fights.

2. (common).—Drunk ; in liquor : *see* DRINKS and SCREWED.

T-CRACKER, *subs.* (pugilists).—
1. The head; (2) a sharp blow on
it; and (3) in *pl.* the fists.

4. in *pl.* (old).—See quot. 1696.
—HALL, *Memoirs* (1708); GROSE
(1785).

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v.
NUT-CRACKERS. The cull looked through
the **NUT CRACKERS**, the rogue stood in the
pillory.

5. in *pl.* (common).—A curving
nose and protruding chin.

6. (common).—The teeth: see
GRINDERS.

7. (military).—The Third Foot.
See BUFF HOWARDS.

1871. *Chambers's Journal*, 23 Dec.,
802. The 3rd Foot, best known as the
'Old Buffs', their accoutrements having
been the first that were made of buffalo
leather, possess two other sobriquets, the
NUT-CRACKERS and the 'Resurrectionists.'

NUT-HOOK, *subs.* (old).—See quot.
1755.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *Henry IV.*,
NUTHOOK, **NUTHOOK**, you lie.

1755. JOHNSON, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v.
NUTHOOK. . . . anciently, I know not why,
a name of contempt.

NUTMEGS, *subs.* (venery).—The
testes; **THE CODS** (*q.v.*).—GROSE
(1785); HALLIWELL (1847).

16 [M]. *Hist. of Jack Horner* (1697), p.
13. My precious **NUTMEGS** doe not
wound, For fear I should not live.

WOODEN NUTMEGS, *subs. phr.*
(American).—See quot. 1872.

1871. *Congress-Globe*, March [DE
VERE, 620]. I leave the honorable gen-
tleman from Massachusetts to his **WOODEN**
NUTMEGS and silver spoons; he will receive
his deserts before the people are done with

1872. DE VERE, *Americanisms*, 620,
s.v. **NUTMEGS**, when made of wood, as
were those immortalized by Sam Slick,
have become so familiar to the public
mind, that they have passed into a slang
term for any cunning deception. Not only
is Connecticut called the **NUTMEG STATE**—
although a factious native says the true
reason is 'because you will have to look for
a grater,'—but in the press and in Con-
gress **WOODEN NUTMEGS** have to answer
for forged telegrams, political tricks and
falsified election-returns.

NUTMEG-STATE, *subs. phr.* (Amer-
ican).—Connecticut. [A nick
name of Judge Haliburton's].

1851. ALLIN, *Home Ballads*, 19.
Still give me the **NUTMEG STATE**—Where
shall we find a *grater*?

NUTSHELL IN A NUTSHELL, *phr.*
(colloquial).—In small compass.
Condensed; 'boiled down.'

1622. FLETCHER, *Spanish Curate*, ii.
1. All I have to lose, Diego, is my learn-
ing; And, when he has gotten that, he
may put it in a **NUT-SHELL**.

c. 1745. SWIFT, *Tale of a Tub*, vii. I
have sometimes heard of an Iliad in a **NUT-
SHELL**.

1866. W. COLLINS, *Armada*, iii. A
nervous patient who is never worried is a
nervous patient cured. There it is in a
NUTSHELL.

NUTTED, *adj.* (common).—Deceived
by a false friend.

NUTTY, *adj. and adv.* (common).—
1. See quot. 1823. Also =
fascinating.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, 230.
He was so **NUTTY** upon the charms of his
fair one.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Twrf*, s.v. **NUTTY**
—sweet, amatory; bestowed by bucks
upon buxom landladies, and spruce bar-
maids.

1827. EGAN, *Anecdotes of the Twrf*,
183. Jemmy became quite **NUTTY**, and
often repeated his visits.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, 116
(ed. 1864). But my **NUTTIEST** blown, one
fine day, To the beaks did her fancy-man
betray.

2. (com-
details; SPI

dep. SAL
The case, be in
in a NUTTY OM

3. (com-
(f.r.); ST
(f.r.); NI

183. B
So prime, so
ing.

183. I
183. And
ing.

183.
Gentler;
[Title]



AF, *subs.* (old).—1.

A loutish simpleton: *see* BUFFLE and CABBAGE-HEAD. Hence OAFDOM = the world of louts; OAFISH = stupid.

—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

1621. BURTON, *Anat. of Mel.*, l. II. iv. vi. 229 (1836). Though he be an AUF, a ninny, a monster, a goos-cap.

1627. DRAYTON, *Nymphidia*, 79. The fairy left this OAF, And took away the other.

1633. FLETCHER and SHIRLEY, *Night Walker*, l. 4. The fear of breeding fools and OAFs.

1668. DRYDEN, *An Evening's Love*, ii. This master of mine, that stands before you, without a word to say for himself, so like an OAF, as I might say.

1693. CONGREVE, *Old Batchelor*, v. 6. *Sharp*. Death! it can't be—an OAF, an ideot, a wittal.

1700. CONGREVE, *Way of the World*, Prologue. With Nature's OAFs, 'tis quite a different Case. For Fortune favours all her Idiot-race.

1706. FARQUHAR, *Recruiting Officer*, iii. 1. What's that to you, OAF?

1773. GOLDSMITH, *She Stoops to Conquer*, iv. You great ill-fashioned OAF, with scarce sense enough to keep your mouth shut.

18[?]. BYFON, *Verses left in a Summerhouse*. This guiltless OAF his vacancy of sense Supplied, and amply too, by innocence.

1853. THACKERAY, *Barry Lyndon*, iii. 45. Her chair had been stopped by a highwayman; the great OAF of a servant-man had fallen down on his knees armed as he was.

1883. A. DOBSON, *Old-World Idylls*, 34. We have passed from *Philosophy*-dom into plainer modern days,—Grown contented in our OAFDOM, Giving grace not all the praise.

1892. MILLIKEN, *Arry Ballads*, 68. I'll 'owl at sich OAFs till I'm 'oarse.

2. (old).—*See* quot.

1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, OAF, a Wise-acre.

OAK, *subs.* (old).—1. A man of substance and credit.—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785); MATSELL (1859).

2. (University).—An outer door. TO SPORT ONE'S OAK = to be 'not at home': indicated by closing the outer door.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.

1845. *The Collegian's Guide*, 14. In college each set of rooms is provided with an OAK or outer door, with a spring lock, of which the master has one key, and the servant another.

1853. BRADLEY ('Cuthbert Bede'), *Verdant Green*, i. viii. Mr. Verdant Green had, for the first time, SPORTED HIS OAK.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, vii. One evening he found himself as usual at Hardy's door about eight o'clock. The OAK was open, but he got no answer when he knocked at the inner door.

Adj. (American).—Strong; rich; in good repute.—MATSELL (1859).

FELLING OF OAKS, *subs. phr.* (old).—Sea-sickness.

1608. WITHAL, *Dict.*, 39. The word signifieth to be provoked, or to have appetite or desire to vomit properly upon the sea, or in a ship. They call it FELLING OF OAKS merilie.

1670. RAY, *Proverbs* [BOHN (1893), 178], s.v.

1696. B. E., *Dist. Cant. Crew*, s.v. OATS. One that has SOLD HIS WILD OATS, or one having run out of all, begins to take up and be more staid.

1707. DURFEE, *Pills to Purge, &c.* (1707), ii. 276. Sow your WILD OATS, And mind not her wild Notes.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. OATS, HE HAS SOWN HIS WILD OATS, he is staid, or sober, having left off his wild tricks.

1858. LYTTON, *What Will He Do With It!* VIII. v. Poole had picked up some WILD OATS—he had sown them now.

FEED OF OATS, *subs. phr.* (common).—1. A whip; and (2) a beating.

TO EARN A GALLON OF OATS, *verb. phr.* (provincial).—Of horses: to fall on the back rolling from one side to the other [HALLIWELL].

TO FEEL ONE'S OATS, *verb. phr.* (American).—To get bumpitious. Cf. BEANS.

1888. *St. Paul and Minneapolis Pioneer*, 22 July. The Kentuckians have certainly brought Little Falls to the front during the past year, and Little Falls FEELS HER OATS, and will undoubtedly expand under her new name of Falls City.

OATH.—TO TAKE AN OATH, *verb. phr.* (common).—To drink; TO LIQUOR UP (*q.v.*).—MATSELL (1859).

HIGHGATE OATH, *subs. phr.* (old).—A jocose asseveration which travellers towards London were required to take at a certain tavern at Highgate. They were obliged to swear that they would not prefer small beer before strong, unless indeed they liked the small better; never to kiss the maid if they could kiss the mistress, unless the maid was prettier; with other statements of a similar kind.

OATMEAL, *subs.* (old).—A roystering profligate: see ROARING BOY and DANDY.

1656. FORD, *Sun's Darling*, l. l. Swagger in my pot-meals, D—n—me's rank with, Do mad pranks with Roaring boys and OATMEALS.

ALL THE WORLD IS NOT OATMEAL, *phr.* (old colloquial).—See *quots.* Cf. BEER AND SKITTLES.

1542. *Apopht. of Erasmus* (Rept.), 329. When Leosthenes had persuaded the citee of Athenes to make warre *becyng set agog to thinke* ALL THE WORLDE OTEMELE, and to imagin the recovering of an high name of freedome and of principaltee or soueraintee.

1615. *Arraignement of Lewde, Idle Women*, cap. iii. par. 1. THE WORLDE IS NOT ALL MADE OF OTEMEALE, nor all is not golde that glisters.

1673. *Vinegar and Mustard*, 'Wednesday's Lecture.' Now you are come ashore, you think the world runs on wheels, and that ALL THE WORLD IS OATMEAL; but you'll find it to the contrary.

OATS-AND-BARLEY, *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—Charley.

1898. *Pink 'Un and Pelican*, 149. Bob and his particular chum OATS (which is short rhyming slang for Charley. "OATS-AND-BARLEY" it is in full, but the true art of it lies in the abbreviation).

OATS-AND-CHAFF, *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—A footpath.

OAT-STEALER, *subs. phr.* (common).—An ostler.

OB, *subs.* (Winchester College).—A contraction of 'obit.'

OBADIAH, *subs.* (obsolete).—A Quaker.

OB-AND-SOLLER, *subs. phr.* (old).—A scholastic disputant. [From 'Objection' and 'Solution' used in the margin of books.]

1638. WHITING, *Albino and Bel-lama* (NARES). Minerva does not all her treasures rivet Into the scrues of OB AND SOLS.

1678. BUTLER, *Hud.*, III. ii. 1241. To pass for deep and learned scholars, Although but paltry OB-AND-SOLLERS: As if th' unseasonable fools Had been a coursing in the schools.

O-BE-EASY. TO SING 'O BE EASY,' *verb. phr.* (old).—See quot.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. O BE JOYFUL. TO SING O BE EASY: to appear contented when one has cause to complain.

O-BE-JOYFUL, *subs. phr.* (old).—See quot. Whence O-BE-JOYFUL WORKS=a drinking shop.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. O BE JOYFUL, good liquor; brandy.

TO MAKE ONE SING 'O BE JOYFUL' ON (OR WITH) THE OTHER SIDE OF THE MOUTH, *verb. phr.* (old).—To make one cry: see MOUTH.—GROSE (1785).

OBUEM, THE, *subs. phr.* (University).—The name for a water-closet building at Cambridge. [Attributed by the Undergraduates to the energy of O(scar) B(rown-ing)].

OBUSCATED, *adj.* (common).—Drunk: see DRINKS and SCREW-ED. Also OBFUSCATION.

1861. H. KINGSLEY, *Ravenshoe*, xxi. In a general state of OBFUSCATION, in consequence of being plied with strange liquors by their patrons.

1869. BRADWOOD, *The O. V. H.* xxviii. Whose ignorance or temporarily OBFUSCATED brain caused him to mistake his employer for Mr. Blake.

1872. *Standard*, 30 Dec. He then missed three shillings from his pockets, and a knife. Witness added that he was very much OBFUSCATED at the time, but he was sure there was no other man in the room.

OBIT, *subs.* (journalists').—An obituary notice.

1874. W. BLACK, in *Athenaeum*, 12 Sept., 353. Some little time ago, the sub-editor of a New York daily newspaper wrote to me begging me to send him the proper materials for the construction of an OBIT. He said it was the custom of his journal to keep OBITs in readiness.

OBJECT, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A laughing-(or gazing-) stock. LITTLE OBJECT (of children)=a half-playful half-angry endearment. Also (2) a sweetheart (*i.e.* the OBJECT of one's affections).

1824. LOCKHART, *Reginald Dalton*, III. 119. What, roars Macdonald—You puir shanglin' in-kneed scray of a thing! Would ony Christian body even you bit OBJECT to a bonnysonie weel-faured young woman like miss Catline?

OBITUOUS, *adj.* and *adv.* (American).—Innocence of right and wrong. [From *oblivious* and *obliquity*].

OBSCUTE, *adj.* (American).—Under-handed; 'crooked.'

OBSERVATIONIST, *subs.* (thieves').—See quot.

1889. BARRERE and LELAND, *Slang, Jargon, and Cant*, s.v. OBSERVATIONIST, one who looks out tempting objects for the skilful thief to steal, etc. Generally pedlars, hawkers, etc.

OBSTROPULOUS, *adj.* (vulgar).—A corruption of 'obstreperous.'

1748. SMOLLETT, *Roderick Random*, viii. I heard him very OBSTROPULOUS in his sleep.

1762. SMOLLETT, *Sir L. Graves*, II. iv. He has been mortally OBSTROPULOUS, and out of his senses all this blessed day.

1773. GOLDSMITH, *She Stoops to Conquer*, III. 1. I'm sure you did not treat Miss Hardcastle, that was here awhile ago, in this OBSTROPULOUS manner.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. OIL.

1847. HALLIWELL, *Archaic Words and Phrases*, s.v. OBSTROPULOUS. I was going my rounds and found this here gemman very OBSTROPULOUS . . . Genuine London dialect.

1876. SIMS, *Dagonet Ballads* (*Miss Jarvis*). But their minds is so awful perverted—they're such an OBSTROPOLOUS pack.

OCCABOT, *subs.* (back-slang).—Tobacco; TIB FO OCCABOT=bit of tobacco.

OCCASION. TO IMPROVE THE OCCASION, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To make the most of a chance.

1860. DICKENS, *Uncommercial Traveller*, II. 6. This serene avoidance of the least attempt to IMPROVE AN OCCASION which might be supposed to have sunk of its own weight into my heart.

1865. G. MACDONALD, *Alec Forbes*, lxii. The faces of the congregation wore an expectant look, for they knew Mr. Turnbull would IMPROVE THE OCCASION.

1867. A. TROLLOPE, *Claverings*, xlv. He IMPROVED THE OCCASION by telling those around him that they should so live as to be ever ready for the hand of death.

1869. FREEMAN, *Norm. Cong.* III., xii. 159. His next thought was how to IMPROVE THE OCCASION.

1883. G. A. S(ALA), in *Illustr. London News*, 27 Oct., 395, 2. I am obliged to 'Nominis Umbra' for his information; but I IMPROVE THE OCCASION by observing that I am resolved for the future not to take the slightest notice of anonymous communications.

OCCUPANT, *subs.* (old).—I. A prostitute; *cf.* OCCUPY. See BARRACK-HACK and TART.

1598. MARSTON, *Satires* (NARES). He with his OCCUPANT Are cling'd so close, like dew-wormes in the morn, That he'll not stir.

2. (old).—A bawdy-house; a brothel. See NANNY-HOUSE.

OCCUPY, *verb.* (old).—I. To copulate: see GREENS and RIDE.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *2 Henry IV.*, ii. 4. These villains will make the word captain as odious as the word occupy.

1598. FLORIO, *A Worlde of Wordes*. *Negotiare* . . . to OCCUPIE a woman. *Ibid.* . . . a good wench, one that OCCUPIES freely.

1620-50. *Percy Folio MS.*, 104. I bluntye asket pro to OCCUPVE her; but first shee wold know wherfore that was good.

1640. BEN JONSON, *Epigr.*, 117. Groyne, come of age, his state sold out of hand For's whore: Groyne still doth OCCUPV his land.

1648. BEN JONSON, *Discoveries*, vii. 119. Many, out of their own obscene apprehensions, refuse proper and fit words, as OCCUPV, nature, and the like.

1656. FLETCHER, *Martiall*, xi. 98. I can swive four times in a night: but these Once in four years I cannot OCCUPIE.

d. 1680. ROCHESTER, *B's Answer*. The only bawd that ever I, For want of whore, could OCCUPV.

1719. DURFEE, *Pills to Purge*, v. 139. For she will be OCCUPIED when others lay still.

1811. *Lex. Bal.*, s.v.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. OCCUPV. To occupy a woman, to have carnal knowledge of her. *Ibid.* Now all good men upon your lives, Turn round and OCCUPV your wives, And when that you have done your best, Turn arse to arse and take your rest.

2. (American thieves').—To wear.—MATSELL (1859).

OCCUPYING-HOUSE, *subs. phr.* (old).—See quot. and NANNY-HOUSE.

1598. FLORIO, *A Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. *Chiansterio*, an OCCUPYING HOUSE, a bawdy house.

OCEAN, *subs.* (colloquial).—In *pl.* = a very large quantity: *e.g.* OCEANS of drink, of coin, of 'notices,' and the like.

OCEAN-GREYHOUND, *subs. phr.* (common).—A swift steamer: specifically one running between England and America. Also ATLANTIC GREYHOUND. Mr. T. Dykes (*Glasgow Mail*, 28 May, 1900), says that in 1882 three great shipbuilding yards—Barrow, Dalmuir, and Fairfield—

ODLING, *subs.* (old).—Cheating.

1599. BEN JONSON, *Every Man out of his Humour*. A thread bare shark; one that never was a soldier, yet lives upon lendings. His profession is skeldering and OLDING.

ODNO, *phr.* (back-slang).—‘No do.’

RIDING ON THE ODNO=travelling by rail without payment.

1889. *Sporting Times*. Doin’ a duck, macin’ the rattler, ridin’ on the cheap, on the ODNO, under the bloomin’ seat.

ODOUR, *subs.* (colloquial).—Repute: as ‘good’ or ‘bad’ ODOUR, the ODOUR of sanctity, &c.

1853. THACKERAY, *Barry Lyndon*, ix. As the Chevalier de Balibari was in particular GOOD ODOUR at the court of Dresden . . . I was speedily in the very best society of the Saxon capital.

1858. GEO. ELIOT, *Amos Barton*, vi. He got into rather BAD ODOUR there, through some scandal about a flirtation, I think.

ODS, *subs.* (old).—A wilful attenuation of ‘God’s’: common in 17th and 18th Century oaths; e.g., ODS-BODKINS=God’s little body, ODS-BOBS, ODS-FISH, etc.

1695. CONGREVE, *Love for Love*, iii. 5. ODSBUD, Madam, have no more to say to him.

1705. MRS. CENTLIVRE, *Gamester*, v. 1 (1892), i. 184. ODSBUD, sir, go to Angelica, this minute.

1782. CENTLIVRE, *Bold Stroke for a Wife*. Free. ODSO! ’tis Miss Anne Lovely.

1812. COMBE, *Dr. Syntax, Picturesque*, C. xi. O! were she in coal-pit bottom, And all such jades, ’OD ROT ’em! My cares would then be over, And I should live in clover.

1813. MOORE, *Twopenny Post-bag*, Letter 4. These Papist dogs—hiccup—’OD ROT ’em!

1844. BUCKSTONE, *The Maid with the Milking Pail*. Lord P. ODS FISH, why this interest in poor Lady Lucy?

OFF, *subs.* (cricketers’).—The field of the wicket-keeper.

1856. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Rugby*, ii. 8. Johnson, the younger bowler, is getting wild, and bowls a ball almost wide to THE OFF.

Adv. (colloquial).—1. Out-of-date. [Originally waiters’: e.g. ‘Chops is HOFF’=‘there are no more chops to-day’].—2. Stale; in bad condition: e.g. Smells a little bit OFF, don’t it?

1892. *Illustrated Bits*, 22 Oct., 6, 2. Theosophy is OFF—decidedly off.

1892. *Tit-Bits*, 17 Sept., 417, 3. If the leopard’s tail is not spotted to the root this conundrum is declared OFF.

TO BE OFF, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To depart; to run away. See AMPUTATE and SKEDADDLE.

1892. *Ally Sloper*, 27 Feb., 66, 2. Will you allow me to offer you a glass of ale? I’m afraid it’s a little off. Is it? then, I’m OFF too.

OFF BAT, *phr.* (Winchester College).—See quot.

1866. MANSFIELD, *School Life at Winchester*, 222. OFF BAT. The station of one of the field in a cricket match, called by the outer world ‘Point.’

OFF THE HORN, *phr.* (common).—Said of very hard steak.

OFF THE HINGE, *phr.* (common).—Out of work.

1853. *Fun*, iv. 58, A Song About Centralization. We’ve rights within our city bounds which no one should infringe And if those rights were broken down ’twould chuck us OFF THE HINGE.

Also see BASE; BAT; CHUMP; COCOANUT; COLOUR; DOT; FRED; HEAD; HOOK; KADOOVA; NUT; ONION; REEL; ROCKER; SAUCER; SONG; SPOT.

OFF-CHANCE, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—A doubtful hazard.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Cribb's Memorial*, 51. Round lugs and OGLES flew the frequent fist.

1821. HAGGART, *Life Glossary*, 172. s.v. OGLERS.

1827. EGAN, *Anec. Turf*, 67. Never again would he put the OGLES of the ring in mourning.

1839. AINSWORTH, *Jack Sheppard*, 1. ii. It does sparkle almost as brightly as your OGLES.

1846. *Punch's Almanac*, November. Remarks. Fiery links gleam through the unfiltered air, and in their transit sputter hot pitch on the fog-bound traveller! Let Snodgrass beware! An Adverse torch threatens his dexter OGLE.

1853. BRADLEY, ('Cuthbert Bede'), *Verdant Green*. That'll raise a tidy mouse on your OGLES, my lad.

1853. THACKERAY, *Barry Lyndon*, vi. A little brown, bright-eyed creature, whose OGLES had made the greatest impression upon all the world.

2 (common).—An ocular invitation or consent, side glance, or amorous look. Whence OGLING = an amorous look.

1704. CIBBER, *The Careless Husband*, iii. 1. Nay, nay, none of your parting OGLES. Will you go?

1710. CONGREVE, *Song to Celia*. Those OGLINGS that tell you my passion.

d.1719. ADDISON, *The Fortunate Hunter*. When an heiress sees a man throwing particular graces into his OGLE . . . she ought to look to herself.

1719. DURFEE, *Pills to Purge, &c.*, i. 43. To OGLE there a Tory tall, or a little Whig, Defying the Pretender.

1751. FIELDING, *Amelia*, xi. iii. He immediately laid siege in form, setting himself down in a lodging directly opposite to her, from whence the battery of OGLES began to play the very next morning.

1818. BYRON, *Beppo*, xvi. For glances beget OGLES, OGLES sighs.

c.1820. MAHER, *Death of Socrates*. With the mots their OGLES throwing.

1892. MILLIKEN, 'Arny Ballads', 37. They ain't in it with OGLES and antics and 'inta.

Verb. (common).—1. To look amorously; to make SHEEP'S EYES (*q.v.*).—B. E. (*c.* 1696).

1712. POPE, *Rape of the Lock*, v. 23. To patch, to OGLE, may become a saint.

1719. DURFEE, *Pills to Purge, &c.*, ii. 97. When Tiptoes are in fashion, and Lovers will jump and play, Then he too takes occasion to leer and OGLE me.

1775. SHERIDAN, *The Rivals*, ii. 1. I will make you OGLE her all day, and sit up all night, to write sonnets on her beauty.

d.1800. COWPER, *Pairing Time Anticipated*. Dick heard, and tweedling, OGLING, bridling.

1834. DOWLING, *Othello Travestie*, i. 3. She first began To throw sheep's eyes, and OGLE at the man.

2. (colloquial).—To examine; to consider.

1836. MICHAEL SCOTT, *Tom Cringle's Log*. I perceived that she first OGLED the superscription, and then the seal, very ominously.

3. (thieves').—To look.

1821. HAGGART, *Life*, 62. Seeing a cove OGLING the yelpers.

1842. EGAN, *Captain Macheath*, 'The By-blow of the Jug.' Jack had a sharp-looking eye to OGLE, And soon he began to nap the fogle.

OGLER, *subs.* (old).—1. *See* OGLE, *subs.*, sense 1.

2. (common).—One who OGLES (*q.v.*).

1702. STEELE, *Grief-a-la-Mode*, iii. 1. Oh! that Kiggle, a pert OGLER.

1710. *Tatler*, 145. A certain sect of professed enemies to the repose of the fair sex, called OGLERS.

OH. *See* AFTER YOU; DUMMY; JUPITER; MOSES; MY; SWALLOW.

OIL, *subs.* (various).—1. Used in humorous or sarcastic combination: *e.g.*, OIL OF ANGELS = a gift or bribe (in allusion to the coin); OIL OF BARLEY = beer; OIL OF BASTON (BIRCH, GLAD-

NESS, HAZEL, HOLLY, ROPE, STIRRUP, STRAPPEM, or WHIP) = a beating; OIL OF GIBLETS (or HORN) = a woman's spendings (BUTTER, *q.v.*; LETCHWATER, *q.v.*); OIL OF MAN (COTGRAVE) = the semen; OIL OF PALMS (or PALM-OIL) = a bribe; OIL OF TONGUE = flattery.

1592. GREENE, *Repentance, etc.* Sig C. My Mother pampered me so long, and secretly helped mee to the OYLE OF ANGELS, that I grew thereby prone to all mischeifs.

1608. WITHAL, *Dict.*, 308, s.v. OIL OF BASTON.

1608. *Penniles Parl.*, in *Harl. Misc.* (PARK), i. 183. The OIL OF HOLLY shall prove a present remedy for a shrewd housewife.

1609. DEKKER, *Ravens Almanache*, in *Wks.* (GROSART), iv. 202. To apply . . the OILE OF HOLLY to her shoulders, I heatherto was affraide, because I had no warrant that a man might lawfullye beate his wife.

1623. MASSINGER, *Duke of Milan*, iii. a. His stripes wash'd off With OIL OF ANGELS.

c.1650. *Bad Husband* [COLLIER, *Rox-burgh Ballads* (184), 300]. She'd tell me it was too early, Or else it was too late, Until by the OYLE OF BARLEY They had gotten my whole estate.

1662. FULLER, *Hist. Worthies of England*, 'The Beggars of Bath.' And although OIL OF WHIP be the proper plaister for the cramp of laziness, yet some pity is due to impotent persons.

1693. *Poor Robin* [NARES]. Now for to cure such a disease as this, The OYL OF WHIP the surest medicine is.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. OYL OF BARLEY, Strong Drink.

1715. CENTLIVRE, *Wife Well Managed*, sc. 5. When wives, like mine, gives inclination scope, No cure for cuckoldom like OYL OF ROPE.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. OIL OF BARLEY, barley broth, strong beer. —*Ibid.* OIL OF GLADNESS, I will anoint you with the OIL OF GLADNESS, ironically spoken for, I will beat you. —*Ibid.* OIL OF STIRRUP, a Dose the cobbler gives his wife, when ever she is Obstropulus.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Crib's Memorial*, 81. OIL OF PALM's, the thing that flowing Sets the naves and fellows going.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. OIL OF PALMS. Money.

1840. LYTTON, *Paul Clifford*, viii. I dare say you may manage to soften the justice's sentence by a little OIL OF PALMS.

1854. *Punch*, ii. 168. OIL OF PALMS. —Metaphora vetustissima. A specific much in vogue for rigid fingers and horny fistedness; though strange to say, it only serves to augment the itch which so often affects the hand.

1879. DICKENS, *Dict. of London*, s.v. SIGHT-SEEING. The enterprising sight-seer who proceeds on this plan, and who understands the virtues of PALM OIL, is sure to see everything he cares to see.

2. (venery).—The semen: *see* CREAM.

1647-80. ROCHESTER, *The Imperfect Enjoyment*. Too hasty zeal my hopes did spoil, Pressing to feed her lamp, I spilt my OIL.

Verb. (common).—To flatter; to bribe.

1616. JONSON, *Devil is an Ass*, iii. 1. They'll part, sir, with no books, without the hautgout He OILED: and I must furnish.

1877. W. THORNBURY, in *Gent. Mag.*, Jan., 85. Passed my things through the Custom-house quickly, having first OILED the douanier's hands.

1881. DORAN, *In and About Drury Lane*, ii. 62. Sir Edward had OILED the palms of men-servants and clerks to the tune of eighty shillings.

1891. NEWMAN, *Scamping Tricks*, 95. After OILING him a little and pleasing him in the old-fashioned way, we managed to overcome the natural dulness of his mind.

TO STRIKE OIL (or ILE), *verb. phr.* (American).—To meet with a stroke of good luck; to be successful. [From the financial advantage accruing from the discovery of the Pennsylvanian and other mineral oil springs.]

1866. *Sat. Review*, 6 Jan. Here the ingenious and industrious explorer constantly STRIKES ILE, and of the very best quality.

1894. *Sketch*, 28 March, 462, 1. You were speaking just now of 'Babil and Bijou' having been a financial failure, but I suppose you have STRUCK ILE sometimes!

TO OIL THE WIG, *verb. phr.* (provincial).—To make tipsy : see DRINKS and SCREWED.

TO OIL THE KNOCKER, *verb. phr.* (common).—To fee the porter. Fr. *graisser le marteau*.

OINER, *subs.* (University).—A cad.

OINTMENT, *subs.* (medical students').—1. Butter ; CART-GREASE (*g.v.*).

2. (old).—Money. [From the 13th Century *Fabliau*, 'De la Vieille qui Oint la Palme au Chevalier'].

3. (venery).—The semen : see SPENDINGS.

O.K., *phr.* (originally American : now universal).—See quot. 1871.

1847. ROBB, *Squatter Life*, 72. His express reported himself after his night ride, assured Allen that all was O.K., and received his dollar.

1852. JUDSON, *Mysteries of New York*, iv. 'Tis one of us ; it's O.K.

1871. DE VERE, *Americanisms*. General Jackson, better known . . . as *Old Hickory*, was not much at home in the art of spelling, and his friend and admirer, Major Jack Downing, found therefore no difficulty in convincing the readers of his 'Letters,' that the President employed the letters O.K. as an endorsement of applications for office, and other papers. They were intended to stand for 'All Correct,' which the old gentleman preferred writing *Old Korrek*.

1883. *Graphic*, 17 March, 287, 1. It was voted O.K., or all correct, whereas the other was pronounced only a one-horse affair.

1889. *Answers*, 56, 1. John Jenkins . . . was O.K. with Matilda Ann at Williams Street.

1889. *Pall Mall Gazette*, 12 Nov., 3, 1. If a stock has been falling and a sudden rise of 1 comes over there is an immediate inquiry, to make sure that there is no mistake. The reply O.K. no doubt comes back, and the price goes out.

1891. *Sporting Times*, 11 Ap. There can be no doubt that it was all O.K., for your insistence upon strict veracity is well known to all readers of the *Pink 'Un*.

Verb. (American).—To signify that all is right.

1888. *Missouri Republican*, 25 Jan. Please O.K., and hurry the return of my account.

OLD, *subs.* (common).—Money : see RHINO.

1900. SIMS, *In London's Heart*, 10. "Perhaps its somebody you owe a bit of the OLD to, Jack" . . . "No, I don't think so," he replied. "Most of the people I owed money to turned up, my dear, when I married you."

Adj. (old colloquial).—1. Crafty ; cunning ; experienced.

2. (old literary : now colloquial).—Great ; famous ; grand ; once a common intensive ; now only in combination with 'high,' 'good,' 'gay,' etc.

1590. TARTLTON, *News out of Purgatorie*. On Sunday, at masse, there was an OLDE ringing of bells.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, i. 4. There will be an OLD abusing of God's patience, and the king's English.

1600. SHAKSPEARE, *Much Ado*, v. 2, 98. Madam, you must come to your uncle. Yonder's OLD coil at home.

1603. TOMKIS, *Lingua*, ii. 6. Imagine there is OLD moving amongst them.

1611. MIDDLETON and DEKKER, *Roaring Girl* (*Century*). Here's old cheating.

1612. DEKKER, *If it be not Good, etc.* We shall have OLD breaking of necks.

1621. FLETCHER, *Pilgrim*, iii. 7. Strange work at sea ; I fear me there's OLD tumbling.

1624. MIDDLETON, *Game at Chess*,
iii. 1. Mass, here will be OLD FIRKING.

1664. COTTON, *Vergil Travestie*
(1st ed.), 104. There was OLD drinking
and OLD singing.

1883. *Referee*, 11 Mar., 3, 2. All the
children who have been engaged in the
Drury Lane Pantomime took tea on the
stage, and had a HIGH OLD TIME (while it
lasted).

1888. J. MCCARTHY, and MRS.
CAMPBELL-PRAED, *Ladies' Gallery*, xxxv.
I went down to Melbourne, intending to
have a HIGH OLD TIME.

1891. J. NEWMAN, *Scampering Tricks*,
7. You are a big fraud and a HIGH OLD
liar.

1892. F. ANSTEV, *Voces Populi*,
'The Riding Class,' 108. 'We've bin
having a GAV OLD time in 'ere.

1899. GUNTER, *Florida Ench.*, 86.
Well, my boy, did you have a HIGH OLD
time last evening with that pretty widow.

3. (Old Cant).—See quot.

1811. *Lex. Bal.* OLD, ugly.

4. (old literary: now collo-
quial).—A general term of endear-
ment or cordiality: e.g., OLD
CHAP; OLD FELLOW; OLD BOY;
OLD HOSS; OLD MAN; OLD GAL;
etc. See BOY.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *Henry IV.*, ii.
4. Go thy ways, OLD Jack.

1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v.
OLD CUFF, a frolicksome old Fellow. *Ibid.*
OLD TOAST, a brisk old Fellow.

1740. RICHARDSON, *Pamela*, iii. 380.
Never fear, OLD BOY, said Sir Charles,
we'll bear our parts in conversation.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.
OLD TOAST, a brisk old fellow.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN].
OLD CHAP, a good-natured flash phrase.

1854. *Our Cruise in the Undine*,
142. Here's a go, Bill! said the Doctor.
Never mind, OLD BOY, replied the Captain;
we'll get the other side of him yet.

1871. *The Echo*, 16 March. Are you
going to have a wet, OLD BOY? one
familarly remarked.

1889. *Illustr. London News Summer*
Number, 96, col. 2. You are right there,
OLD BOY, said Eustace.

1892. HUME NISSET, *Bushranger's*
Sweetheart, p. 163. Now for business,
OLD BOY.

5. (common).—A general dis-
paragement: as in OLD BLOKE;
OLD BUFFER; OLD CAT; OLD
COCK; OLD CODGER; OLD COON;
OLD CRAWLER; OLD CUR-
MUDGEON; OLD DOG; OLD
FILE; OLD FIZ-GIG; OLD GEEZER;
OLD HUDDLE AND TWANG; OLD
IMAGE; OLD POT-AND-PAN; OLD
SHAVER; OLD SQUARE-TOES; OLD
STAGER; OLD STICK; OLD STICK-
IN-THE-MUD.

1600. *Sir John Oldcastle*, i. 2. If
ever wolf were clothed in sheep's coat,
Then I am he; OLD HUDDLE AND TWANG.

1760. GEORGE COLMAN, *Polly*
Honeycombe, i. 3. The old CODGER's gone,
and has locked me up with his daughter.

1823. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry*,
ii. 4. *Tom*. Good night, OLD STICK-IN-
THE-MUD.

1836. LEMAN REDE and R. BRINS-
LEY PRAKE, *The Middle Temple*, 3. *Brn.*
Thank you, ma'am; there was an OLD
FIZGIG told me to bring that card here.
Mrs. M. OLD FIZGIG! (*Aside*) Does not
speak quite respectful of his parent.

1838. SELBY, *The Dancing Master*,
2. Hard-hearted OLD CODGER, he'd see
me killed with as much unconcern as he
would a sucking-pig.

1846. PLANCHE, *Court Favour*, i.
Duke. (*Aside*) Tiresome OLD CAT!
Madam—(aloud)—permit me.

1864. *Sun*, 28 Dec., *Review of*
HOTTEN'S Slang Dict. We look in vain
here for any mention of OLD SQUARE-
TOES.

1867. MARK LEMON, *Golden Fetters*,
ii. p. 74. Mr. Clendon did not call Mr.
Barnard OLD COCK, OLD FELLOW, or OLD
BEE-SWING.

1870. HAYLEWOOD and WILLIAMS,
Leave it to Me, i. Jos. (*aside*) Blowed if
I know what to say. (*Aloud to Quince*)
My worthy OLD COCKALORUM.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under*
Arms, xxxvi. You're a regular OLD
IMAGE, Jim, says she. *Ibid.*, i. I used to
laugh at him, and call him a regular OLD
CRAWLER.

OLD BRAGGS, *subs. phr.* (military).

—The 28th Foot, now the 1st Batt. Gloucestershire Regiment: from its Colonel's name, 1734-51. Also "The Slashers."

OLD BUCKS, *subs. phr.* (military).

—The Bedfordshire Regiment, formerly The 16th Foot. Also "The Peacemakers" and "The Feather-beds."

OLD BUFFS, *subs. phr.* (military).—

The Third Foot, now The Buffs (East Kent Regiment). Also NUT-CRACKERS and RESURRECTIONISTS.

OLD-CROW, *subs. phr.* (American).

—A drink; a dram. [In the United States OLD CROW = a choice brand of Bourbon or corn whiskey].

c.1860. *Broadside Ballad* [quoted in *Slang, Jargon and Cant*]. Life seems a bit to soften when I try a good OLD CROW.

OLD-DING, *subs. phr.* (venery).—

The 'emale *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE. — *Lex. Bal.* (1811); GROSE (1823).

OLD-DOG, *subs. phr.* (common).—

1. A half-burnt plug of tobacco left in the bowl of a pipe.

2. (colloquial).—A lingering antique.

1846. DICKENS, *Dombey*, x. 79. An old campaigner, sir, said the Major, a smoke-dried, sun-burnt, used-up, invalided old dog of a Major, sir.

Adj. phr. (old).—Particularly good.

1596. NASHE, *Have with you*, Epia. Ded. par. 5. O, he hath been OLDE DOGGE at that drunken, staggering kinde of verse.

1664. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, II. iii. 5, 208. He (Sidrophel) was OLD DOG at physiology.

1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. OLD-DOG-at-it, good or expert. *Ibid.* OLD-DOG-AT-COMMON-PRAYER, a poor Hackney that cou'd Read, but not Preach well.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.

OLD DONAH (or OLD WOMAN), *subs. phr.* (tramps').—A mother.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippe*, xvi. Well my old pot switched with the cook, my OLD DONAH, and . . . I was born a twelvemonth afterwards.

OLD DOSS, *subs. phr.* (thieves').—*See* quotes. and CAGE.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN]. s.v. OLD DOSS, Bridewell.

1859. MATSELL, *Vocabulum*, s.v. OLD DOSS, The Tombs [the New York City gaol].

OLD DOZEN, *subs. phr.* (military).

—The Suffolk Regiment, formerly the 12th Foot.

OLD DRIVER, *subs. phr.* (common).

—The devil: *see* SKIPPER.

OLDEBONY, *subs.* (literary).—*Blackwood's Magazine*. Also MAGA.

OLD EYES, *subs. phr.* (military).—

The Grenadier Guards; also known as "The Sand Bags," "The Coalheavers," "The Housemaids' Pets," and "The Bermuda Exiles."

OLD FILE, *subs. phr.* (common):—

A miser; a SKINFLINT. (*q.v.*). Also *see* OLD, *adj.* sense 5.

OLD FIVE AND THREEPENNIES,

subs. phr. (military).—The Fifty-third Foot. [From its number and (formerly) the daily pay of an ensign]. Also BRICKDUSTS.

OLD FLOORER, *subs. phr.* (common).—Death.

OLD FOGS, *subs. phr.* (military).—The 87th Foot, now the Royal Irish Fusiliers. [From their battle-cry, '*Fag-an-Bealach*' = 'Clear the Way']. Also "Blayne's Bloodhounds" and "The Rollickers."

OLD GENTLEMAN, *subs. phr.* (card-sharpers').—1. *See* quot.

1828. G. SMEETON, *Doings in London*, 77. An OLD GENTLEMAN (a card somewhat larger and thicker than the rest of the pack, and now in considerable use amongst the 'legs').

2. (common).—The devil: *see* SKIPPER.

1727. DE Foe, *Hist. App.* [1729], 364. The devil is not so black as he is painted, but that you may form such images of THE OLD GENTLEMAN [etc.]. M.

1836. BUCKSTONE, *Marina*, ii. 1. They do say, if he's not THE OLD GENTLEMAN himself he is a very near relation. . . . *Gil.* And as true as you stand there, only two evenings ago I saw his Satanic Majesty.

1840. BARMHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends (Lay of St. Nicholas)*. And how, to the day of their death, THE OLD GENTLEMAN Never attempted to kidnap them more.

OLD GLORY, *subs. phr.* (American).—The United States' flag (1770—1844).

OLD GOOSEBERRY, *subs. phr.* (common).—The devil: *see* SKIPPER.

1861. H. KINGSLEY, *Ravenshoe*, xxxvii. Hornby (who would, like Faust, have played chess with OLD GOOSEBERRY) allowed himself to be taken into a skittle-ground.

TO PLAY OLD GOOSEBERRY, *verb. phr.* (common).—To play the devil.—GROSE (1785); BEE (1823).

1829. MOORE, *Tom Crib*, 22. Will PLAY UP OLD GOOSEBERRY soon with them all.

1835. SELBY, *Catching an Heiress*, i. GO to the fair, get jolly, and PLAY UP OLD GOOSEBERRY.

1843. BARMHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends (Blondie Jack)*. There's a pretty to do! All the people of Shrewsbury Playing old GOOSEBERRY, With your choice bits of taste and virtue.

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, xxxviii. I'll PLAY OLD GOOSEBERRY with the office.

1865. H. KINGSLEY, *Hillyars and the Burtens*, lxii. LAY ON LIKE OLD GOOSEBERRY.

1892. *Globe*, 12 July, 2, 2. We all know his capacity for PLAYING OLD GOOSEBERRY with things in general.

OLD GOWN, *subs.* (common).—Smuggled tea.

OLD HAND. *See* OLD BIRD.

OLD HARRY, *subs. phr.* (common).—The devil. Also THE LORD HARRY. *See* SKIPPER.—GROSE (1785).

1687. CONGREVE, *Old Back*, ii. 2. By THE LORD HARRY he says true.

1744. O'HARE, *Midas*, ii. 1. I swear by THE LORD HARRY, The moment madam's confined—Her I'll marry.

1810. POOLE, *Hamlet Travestie*, i. 1. I'll speak to it, should even OLD HARRY dare me.

1849. LYTTON, *Caxtons*, viii. ch. ii. By THE LORD HARRY! muttered the policeman, if he ben't going to sleep again!

1866. MAHONY, *Reliques of Father Prout*, 'Vert-Vert.' Nay sometimes, too, by THE LORD HARRY! He'd pull their caps and 'scapulary.'

2. (old).—*See* quot. 1696.

1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. OLD HARRY, a composition used by Vintners, when they bedevil their Wines.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.

TO PLAY OLD HARRY, *verb. phr.* (common).—To play the devil: *see* PLAY.

1837. MARRYAT, *Dog Friend*, xlvii. They've PLAYED OLD HARRY with the rigging.

1884. W. C. RUSSELL, *Jack's Courtship*, xii. I'm afraid he'll now take such steps to stop all chance of my meeting or communicating with his daughter as will PLAY OLD HARRY with my hopes.

OLD HARVEY, *subs. phr.* (nautical).—The large boat (the launch) of a man-of-war.

OLD HAT, *subs. phr.* (venery).—*See* *quots.* and *MONOSYLLABLE*.

1754. FIELDING, *Jonathan Wild*, i. vi. (note). I shall conclude this learned note with remarking that the term OLD HAT is used by the vulgar in no very honourable sense.

1760. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, cxxvi. A chapter of chambermaids, green gowns, and OLD HATS.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. HAT. OLD HAT, a woman's privities: because frequently felt.

OLD HORNEY (or **HORNINGTON**), *sub. phr.* (venery).—The *penis*: *see* PRICK. Cf. MISS HORNER = the female *pudendum*.

OLD (or **SALT**) **HORSE**, *subs. phr.* (nautical).—1. Salt junk. Fr. *sous-pied*, and *tire-fiacre*.

1889. *Chambers's Journal*, 3 Aug., 495. Mr. Clark Russell declares that SALT-HORSE works out of the pores, and contributes to that mahogany complexion common to sailors, which is often mistakenly attributed to rum and weather.

2. (American).—An endearment: a familiar address. *See* OLD, *adj.*, sense 4. Also OLD HOSS.

1884. S. L. CLEMENS ('M. Twain'), *Huckleberry Finn*, xvii. Are you all ready? All right—come along, OLD HOSS.

1888. GUNTER, *Mr. Potter of Texas*, 123. Lubbins, OLD OS, is that ere lunch ready?

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippe*, xiv. Well, OLD HOSS, how are you, and how's the world been playing on yer since I last vardied yer? Alright, mate.

OLD INNISKILLINGS, *subs. phr.* (military).—The 6th (Inniskilling) Dragoons. Also "The Skil-lingers."

OLD IRON, *subs. phr.* (nautical).—Shore clothes. To WORK UP OLD IRON = to go ashore.

OLD LADY, *subs. phr.* (card-sharp-ers').—1. *See* *quot.* and cf. OLD GENTLEMAN, sense 1.

1828. G. SMEETON, *Doings in London*, 78. There is not only an old gentleman, but an OLD LADY (a card broader than the rest) amongst them.

2. (venery).—The female *pudendum*: *see* *MONOSYLLABLE*.

THE OLD LADY OF THREAD-NEEDLE ST., *subs. phr.* (common).—The Bank of England.

1797. GILRAY, *The Old Lady in Threadneedle Street in Danger* [Title of Caricature, the reference being to the temporary stopping of cash payments 26th February, 1797, and the issue of pound bank-notes 4th March the same year.]

1859. *Punch*, xxxvi. 174. The girl for my money. The OLD LADY OF THREADNEEDLE STREET.

1864. BRADDON, *Henry Dunbar*, xxv. The . . . convenient and flimsy paper circulating medium dispensed by the OLD LADY IN THREADNEEDLE STREET.

1871. *Chambers's Journal*, 9 Dec., 773. The OLD LADY IN THREADNEEDLE STREET can always take care of herself: if a note is stolen, *she* don't suffer; while, if it is lost, it is just so much in her own pocket, unless you can get a justice of the peace to swear it's burned.

1889. *Tit Bits*, 30 Nov., 119, 1. From seven o'clock in the evening until seven o'clock in the morning the OLD LADY OF THREADNEEDLE STREET is as well protected by Her Majesty's soldiers as Her Majesty in her palace.

1894. *Pall Mall Gazette*, 28 July. In its infancy there were only fifty-four persons employed in the service of the OLD LADY OF THREADNEEDLE STREET; now the staff numbers nearly a thousand employees.

OLD LAG. *See* LAG.

OLD LINE STATE, *subs. phr.* (American).—Maryland. [From the OLD LINE regiments contributed to the Continental army in the War of the Revolution].

OLD MAN, *subs. phr.* (venery).—1. The penis: *see* CREAMSTICK and PRICK.

2. (Australian).—A full-grown male kangaroo.

1877. *Bush Wanderings of a Naturalist*. . . . Some of the OLD MEN reach to an immense size, and I have often killed them over a cwts.

1872. J. B. STEPHENS, *Mis. Poems* [1880] 'Brisbane Reverie.' Where the Kangaroo gave hops, the OLD MAN fleetest of the fleet.

1897. *Pall Mall*, 23 Sep., 9, 2. Almost the first kangaroo put up was an OLD MAN, and the pack hustled him through a patch of heavy timber, into a bog and out of it again.

3. (common).—A familiar mode of address. *See* OLD, *adj.*, sense 4.

4. (common).—A master; a GOVERNOR (*q.v.*); a BOSS (*q.v.*).

1899. GUNTER, *Florida Ench.* 9. 'One would think you like to frighten people.' 'So I does,' grins the youth solemnly, when the OLD MAN'S out.

5. (common).—A husband: *cf.* OLD WOMAN. *Fr.* *le géniteur*.

1856. WHYTE MELVILLE, *Kate Coventry*, xvi. Aunt Deborah only stipulating that there should be no male addition to the party, except Mr. Lumley himself, or, as the lady of the house termed him, her OLD MAN.

1883. STEVENSON, *The Silverado Squatters*, 98. When her OLD MAN wrote home for her from America.

6. (American).—The captain of a merchantman.

1823. FENIMORE COOPER, *Pilot*, vi. We must get them both off . . . before the OLD MAN takes it into his head to leave the coast.

1847. HOWITT, *Journal*, 187. To begin with the captain. He was a first-rate OLD MAN as far as good treatment and good living went.

1850. SEAWORTHY, *Nag's Head*, viii. 66. Land O! Where away? shouted the OLD MAN.

1883. W. CLARK RUSSELL, *Sailor's Language*, preface, xi. But the lack of variety is no obstruction to the sailor's poetical inspiration when he wants the OLD MAN to know his private opinions without expressing them to his face, and so the same chantey, as the windlass or halliard chorus is called, furnishes the music to as many various indignant remonstrances as Jack can find injuries to sing about.

7. (common).—The ridge between two sleepers in a feather bed.

8. (nurses').—A blanket used to wrap a young child in.

9. (common).—A father.

OLD MAN'S MILK, *subs. phr.* (common).—Whiskey: *see* DRINKS. In Scotland a mixture of cream, eggs, sugar and whiskey.

1877. *Saxon and Gael*, ii. 78, 79. Flora made me a bowl of OLD MAN'S MILK, but nothing would bring me round.

OLD MR. GORY, *subs. phr.* (old).—'A piece of gold.'—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

OLD MR. GRIM, *subs. phr.* (old).—Death: *see* OLD FLORES (*q.v.*).—GROSE (1785); *Lex Bal.* (1811).

OLD NICK, *subs. phr.* (common).—The devil: *see* SKIPPER. Also NICKIE and NICKIE-BEN.—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

1662. *Rump Songs*, ii. 42. In this prodigal trick They have outdone Old NICK For what he did give he did show.

1678. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, iii. i. 1313. Nick Machiavel had no such trick, Though he gave's name to our OLD NICK.

1706. WARD, *Hudibras Redivivus*, i. v. 14. In painful fury roaring out, I wish your patterns at OLD NICK.

1719. DUFFY, *Pills to Purge, &c.*, i. 264. The God of Love, or else Old Nick, Sure had design'd this Devilish trick.

1720. SWIFT, *Apollo to the Dean* [*Works* (1824), xiv. 134]. For I think in my conscience he deals with OLD NICK.

a. 1796. BURNS, *Tam o' Shanter*, II. There sat AULD NICK, in shape o' beast. *Ibid.* Add. to the Devil. But fare-you-weel, AULD NICKIE-BEN.

1829. BUCKSTONE, *Billy Taylor*, NICK or Belszebub, Or as our children call thee, black old Bogey, Appear!

1835. HALIBURTON, *Clockmaker*, i S. x. And kick like mad, and then OLD NICK himself wouldn't start 'em.

1855. *Notes and Queries*, i S. xii. 228. All over the North a demon bearing this designation, slightly modified by dialectic variations, is commonly acknowledged. He is the Anglo-Saxon Nicer; Dan. Nœkke or Nökke (Nikke); Swedish Neck, Necken ('ejusdem significationis' as Finn Magnussen observes, 'ut et Anglorum Nick—Old Nick; Belgarum, Nicker—qui, jam nunc diabolum indicant'; Fennish Näki; Estonian Nack; Scotch Nicneven; German Nicks, Nicks, Nische, the Nickar of the people of the Feroës, and the Nikel of those of the Rügen.

1870. MONCRIEFF, *Giovanni in London*, i. 2. And, pray, what were you sent to OLD NICK for, my love?

1884. CLARK RUSSELL, *Jack's Courtship*, xvi. I knew you'd do it—it's the Seymour spirit—a fair grip, and OLD NICK may shriek for mercy.

1892. MILLIKEN, *Arvy Ballads*, 38. In that Gallery, Charlie, OLD NICK would have found it too warm.

OLD ONE (OR OLD 'UN), *subs. phr.* (common).—1. The devil: *see* SKIPPER.—GROSE (1785).

2. (common).—A father.

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xx. It's the OLD 'UN. OLD ONE, said Mr. Pickwick, What OLD ONE? My father, sir, replied Mr. Weller.

3. (racing).—A horse more than three years old.

4. (theatrical).—The pantaloons; the FOOL'S FATHER (*q.v.*).

OLD PEGG, *subs. phr.* (old).—'Poor Yorkshire cheese, made of skimmed milk.'—GROSE (1785).

OLD PELT, *subs. phr.* (printers').—An old pressman. [In allusion to the ink pelts formerly in use for distributing the ink].

OLD POD (OR OLD POT-AND-PAN), *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—1. An old man; a father. Also (2) a wife; a woman.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippe*, xvi. You must know that my OLD POT was a bark.

OLD POGER, *subs. phr.* (old).—The devil: *see* SKIPPER.—GROSE.

OLD PROBABILITIES, *subs. phr.* (American).—The Superintendent of the United States' weather bureau. Sometimes OLD PROB.

1888. *New York Herald*, 4 Nov. When you come to think of the sort of weather we have had in New York upon the occasions of great popular political turnouts . . . you will find that as a rule OLD PROBABILITIES has been rather kindly disposed to both parties.

OLD RED-EYE, *subs. phr.* (American).—Whiskey. *See* OLD MAN'S MILK.

OLD RIP. *See* RIP.

OLD ROGER, *subs. phr.* (old).—The devil: *see* SKIPPER.—GROSE (1785); *Lex. Bal.* (1811).

OLD SALT, *subs. phr.* (nautical).—An experienced sailor.

OLD SAUCY SEVENTH, *subs. phr.* (military).—The 7th (The Queen's Own) Hussars: in Peninsula times. Also "The Lily-White Seventh," "Young Eyes," "Old Strawboots" and "Straws."

OLD SCRATCH, *subs. phr.* (common).
—The devil : *see* SKIPPER.

1762. SMOLLETT, *L. Greaves*, II. x. He must have sold himself to OLD SCRATCH ; and, being a servant of the devil, how could he be a good subject to his Majesty.

1780. LEE, *Chapter of Accidents*, v. 2. I be sick enough of passing for a lady ; but if OLD SCRATCH ever puts such a trick again in my head, I hope—your lordship will catch me, that's all.

1857. A. TROLLOPE, *Three Clerks*, xx. He don't mean anything, and I said he didn't all along. He'd have pitched me to OLD SCRATCH, while I was sitting there on his knee, if he'd have had his own way.

OLD SEVEN AND SIXPENNIES, *subs. phr.* (military).—The 76th Foot, now the 2nd Batt. Duke of Wellington's (West Riding Regiment) : from its former number and the amount of a lieutenant's pay. Also "The Immortals" and "The Pigs."

OLD SHELL, *subs. phr.* (nautical).—A sailor.

OLD SHOE, *subs. phr.* (common).—A portent (or augury) of good fortune.

d. 1892. TENNYSON, *Will Waterproof*. And wherso'er thou mov'st good luck Shall fling her OLD SHOE after.

TO WEAR (OR RIDE IN)
ANOTHER MAN'S OLD SHOES (OR
BOOTS), *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—
To marry or keep another man's
woman.

OLD SOLDIER, *subs. phr.* (common).
—A cigar end or old quid.

1901. *People*, 7 Ap., 18, 2. An OLD SOLDIER—both in the literal and metaphorical sense—down to every move on the board, suspicious and even touchy, he forms a genuine friend, ever ready to do his comrade a good turn.

TO COME THE OLD SOLDIER.
See COME.

OLD SONG, *subs.* (common).—A trifle ; a nominal sum or price.

OLD SPLIT-FOOT, *subs. phr.* (common).—The devil : *see* SKIPPER.

1848. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, . . . They go it like an Ericsson's ten-hoss-power coleric ingine, An' make OLE SPLIT-FOOT winch an' squirm, for all he's used to singein'.

OLD STAGER, *subs. phr.* (common).
A person of experience ; an OLD DOG (*q.v.*).

OLD STICK, *subs. phr.* (common).
—1. A disparagement : *cf.* OLD, *adj.*, sense 5.

2. (old).—A complimentary mode of address to an old man, signifying he is a capital fellow [HALLIWELL].

OLD STUBBORNS, *subs. phr.* (military).—The Forty-fifth Foot, now THE SHERWOOD FORESTERS.

OLD STRAWBOOTS (or STRAWS), *subs. phr.* (military).—The 7th (The Queen's Own) Hussars : for substituting at Warbourg (1760) strawbands for worn-out boots. Also "The Old Saucy Seventh" and "The Lily-White Seventh."

OLD TIMER, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).
—1. A *laudator temporis acti* ; and (2) one who has grown old in a place or profession.

1860. *Music and Drama*, XIII. ix. 14. OLD TIMERS unanimously declared that in the new-comer had indeed arisen another Tausig.

1866. *New Princetown Rev.*, v. 122. Most of us OLD TIMERS . . . are poor now.

OLD TOAST, *subs. phr.* (common).
—1. The devil : *see* SKIPPER. Also OLD TOASTER.—MATSELL (1859).

2. (old).—‘A brisk old fellow.’
GROSE (1785); *Lex. Bal.* (1811).

OLD TOM, *subs. phr.* (common).—
Gin : *see* WHITE SATIN.

1823. *BER*, *Dict. Turf*, s.v.

1832. *EGAN*, *Book of Sports*, 268.
When Love turns his back, and old
friendships are failing, And the spirits are
sinking therefrom—The only receipt, that
is ne’er unavailing, Is a jolly stiff glass of
OLD TOM.

1837. *LYTTON*, *Ernest Maltravers*,
iv. i. OLD TOM, he is the best of gin :
Drink him once, and you’ll drink him
agin !

1851-61. *MAYHEW*, *London Lab.* ii.
p. 256. Rum he preferred to gin, only it
was dearer, but most of the scavengers, he
thought, liked OLD TOM (gin) best.

1854. *Punch*, xxxvii. 75. Mr.
Stuggers was promptly thrust into a cell
into which five of his companions followed
him, and their united consolations, and
those of a bottle of the ANCIENT THOMAS
Vintage which was speedily produced,
restored the Varmint to something of his
habitual placidity.

1868. *BREWER*, *Phrase and Fable*,
s.v. OLD TOM. Thomas Norris, one of
the men employed in Messrs. Hodges’
distillery, opened a gin palace in Great
Russell Street, Covent Garden, and called
the gin concocted by Thomas Chamberlain,
one of the firm of Hodges, OLD TOM, in
compliment to his former master.

1892. *SYDNEY WATSON*, *Waps the
Waif*, i. 2. And a-slides along from
‘shampain’ to brandy, and from that to
OLD TOM.

OLD TOUGHS, *subs. phr.* (military).
—The One Hundred and Third
Foot, now the 2nd Batt. Royal
Dublin Fusiliers. [For long and
arduous service in India].

OLD TROT. *See* TROT.

OLD ’UN. *See* OLD ONE.

OLD WHALE, *subs. phr.* (nautical).
—A sailor.

OLD WOMAN, *subs. phr.* (venery).—
1. The female *pudendum* : *see*
MONOSYLLABLE.

2. (prison).—A prisoner who,
unfit for physical hard work, is
set to knitting stockings.

3. (common).—A man with
the character and habits of a
woman. Also, OLD WIFE.

4. (colloquial).—A wife or
mother : *cf.* OLD MAN. *See*
DUTCH.

1892. *Idler*, June, p. 550. As we
was a-comin’ ’ome I says to the OLD GAL,
Let’s pop into the Broker’s Arms and ’ave
a drop o’ beer.

OLIVE-BRANCHES, *subs. phr.* (col-
loquial).—Children. [In allusion
to Psalm cxxviii. 4, in Book of
Common Prayer].

1688. *PRIOR*, *The Mice*. May you
ne’er meet with Tends or Babbie, May
OLIVE-BRANCHES crown your Table.

1888. *Harper’s Mag.*, lxxvi. 791.
There were hardly quarter’s enough for
the bachelors, let alone those blessed with
wife and OLIVE BRANCHES.

OLIVER, *subs.* (old).—The moon ;
the SKY-LANTERN. OLIVER
WHIDDLES (or IS UP) = the
moon shines ; OLIVER IS IN
TOWN = the nights are moon-
light.

1781. *G. PARKER*, *View of Society*,
ii. 133. *note*. OLIVER DON’T WIDDLE.
The Moon not up.

1819. *VAUX*, *Memoirs*, ii. 193, s.v.

1834. *AINSWORTH*, *Rookwood*, iii. v.
Now OLIVER puts his black nightcap on
And every star its glim is hiding. *Ibid.*
iv. vi. OLIVER WHIDDLES—the tatter old !
Telling what beat had been left untold,
OLIVER ne’er was a friend of mine ; All
glims I hate that so brightly shine. Give
me a night black as hell, and then See
what I’ll show to you, my merry men.

1837. *LYTTON*, *Ernest Maltravers*,
iv. i. In half an hour OLIVER puts on his
nightcap, and we must then be off.

1895. H. B. MARRIOTT-WATSON, in *New Review*, 7 July. There's a moon out, The better for us to pick 'em off. Dan, I returned, laughing at him. What—OLIVER? damn OLIVER! said Zacchary. Let's push forward and come to quarters.

TO GIVE A ROWLAND FOR AN OLIVER. See ROWLAND.

OLIVER'S SKULL, *subs. phr.* (old).—A chamber-pot: see IT.—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785); MATSELL (1859).

OLLAPOD, *subs.* (old).—An apothecary. [From George Coleman's comedy (1802) *The Poor Gentleman*.] Sp. *olla podrida* = putrid pot.

OLLI COMPOLLI, *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—'The by-name of one of the principal Rogues of the Canting Crew.'—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785); MATSELL (1859).

OMEE, *subs.* (thieves' and theatrical). A man: specifically, a master. [Fr. It. *uomo*.] Fr. *le pilier du creux*. Also OMER and HOMER.

1864. HOTTEN, *Slang Dict.*, s.v. OMER . . . the OMER of the Carsey's a nark on the pitch, the master of the house will not let us perform.

1883. *Echo*, 25 Jan., 2, 3. From the Italian we got the thieves' slang terms *casa* for house . . . and OMER for man (nomo).

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippo*, xiii. When I got back the cullies said, Well, cully, how did you get on with the OMER? Bono, about sa rounds of fine blocks.

OMNIBUS, *subs.* (venery).—1. The female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

2. (venery).—A prostitute: see BARRACK-HACK and TART.

3. (common).—A man of all-work; a handy man.

1894. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 7 Dec., 8, 2. One of the omnibuses employed at the café says that he saw a man in one of the upstairs lavatories after the café had been closed.

OMNIUM, *subs.* (Stock Exchange).—The aggregate value of the different stocks in which a loan is funded.

OMNIUM GATHERUM, *subs. phr.* (old: now recognised).—A medley; a Jack-of-all-trades. [Lat. *Omnium*, genit. plural of *omnis* = all, and Eng. *gather*.] GROSE (1785).

1576. DEE [ARBER, *English Gamer* (1879), ii. 63]. A fortnight in providing a little company of OMNI GATHARUMS taken up on a sudden to sewe at sea.

1592. G. HARVEY, *Four Letters* [GROSART, *Wks.* i. 190]. A Player, a Coosener, a Rayler, a beggar, an OMNI-GATHERUM, a Gay nothing.

1596. NASHE, *Saffron Walden*, in *Works*, iii. 46. Shew vs some of them, that like a great Inquest, we may deliuer our verdit before it come to the OMNI-GATHERUM of Towne and Countrey.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Marhall*, p. 24 (H. Club's Repr. 1874). They haue a language among themselues, composed of OMNIUM GATHERUM.

1689. SELDEN, *Table-Talk*, p. 62 (Arber's ed.). So in our Court in Queen *Elisabeth's* time Gravity and State were kept up. In King *James's* time things were pretty well. But in King *Charles's* time, there has been nothing but *Frenchmore* and the Cushion Dance, OMNIUM GATHERUM, tolly, polly, hoite come toite.

18[7]. D. OF BUCKINGHAM, *Court of William IV. and Victoria*, ii. ch. v. Our meeting . . . was merely an OMNIUM-GATHERUM of all the party.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, lxiii. She . . . gave me to understand that this party was only an OMNIUM GATHERUM, not one of the select parties.

ON, *adv.* (back-slang).—1. No.

1874. HOTTEN, *Slang Dict.*, *Back Slang*, 355. ON DOOG, no good.

2. (common). — Topsy: *see* DRINKS and SCREWED.

1882. JAS. PAYN, *For Cash Only*, xxii. I was no more ON at the Crown that night than I am at this blessed moment of time.

1888. *Cornhill Mag.*, March, 227. I wasn't drunk, only ON, but if she had given me another bumper I should have gone clean off my head.

3. (once literary: now vulgar). — Used for 'of'.

1657. MIDDLETON, *Women Beware Women*, I. ii. *Ward*. Many, that I am afraid ON.

d.1625. FLETCHER, *Elder Brother*, iv. iii. We have no quarrel to you, that we know ON, sir.

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, ii. 3. Come on! said the cab-driver, sparring away like clockwork. Come on—all four ON you.

4. (Winchester College).—*See* quot.

1866. MANSFIELD, *School Life at Winchester*, 222. ON—The word given by the Prefect of Hall for the boys to start to or from Hills, or to Cathedral. When any person or thing of importance was known to be likely to meet the boys when on Hills, the word was passed that he, she, or it was ON,—e.g., RIDSWORTH ON, SNOBS ON, BADGER ON, etc.

5. (venery).—Carnally minded; concupiscent: ON IT (in America), said of a woman willing to copulate unlawfully.

1847. HALLIWELL, *Archaic Words*, etc., s.v.

TO BE (or GET) ON, *verb. phr.* (racing).—I. To make a bet: generally TO HAVE A BIT ON.

1872. *Standard*, 23 Oct. Everyone . . . HAD SOMETHING ON.

1881. W. BLACK, *Beautiful Wretch*, xxiv. I'll bet you five sovereigns to one that they let him out . . . are you ON?

1883. HAWLEY SMART, *Hard Lines*, ix. In the mean time you are ON at 100 to nothing about your own horse.

1891. *Answers*, 28 Mar. Thanks to the eagerness of some small local book-makers to let people GET ON late.

1894. GEORGE MOORE, *Esther Waters*, ii. Oh, we did have a fine time then, for we all had a bit ON.

2. (common). — Ready and willing; good at; fond of.

1872. S. L. CLEMENS ('Mark Twain'), *Innocents at Home*, . . . Pard, he was ON it! He was ON it bigger than an Injun! ON it! ON what? ON the shoot. ON the shoulder. ON the fight, you understand.

1883. *Referee*, 6 May, 3. 2. If the directors should think fit to offer me £200 a night to warble, you may depend upon it I shall be ON at that figure.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, xi. I'm half a mind to tell Warrigal to go back and say we're not ON, I said.

1891. N. GOULD, *Double Event*, 124. Make it a hundred, and I'm ON, said Bandy.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippe*, xiv. One day he meets an old college pal and off they go on the booze, and when he got the flavour of it he was ON TO IT and the old man chucked him.

TO TRY IT ON. *See* TRY.

[See also BACK; BALLOT; BAT; BATTER; BEAM-ENDS; BEER; BEND; BOARD; BONE; BOOT-LEG; BOUNCE; BOX; BURST (or BUST); CARDS; CHAIN; CHEAP; CROOK; CROSS; DEAD; DEAD BROKE; DEAD QUIET; DEE; FLY; FORTY-NINTH; FOURTH; FUDDLE; GRASS; GROUND-FLOOR; HALF-SHELL; HEAD; HIP; HOP; ICE; JOB; LAY; LEDGE; LOOSE; MAKE; MUDDLE; NAIL; NOD; NOSE; ONE'S F'S AND Q'S; POUNCE; PRAIRIE; PROMOTION; QUIET; Q.T.; RAMBLE; RAMPAGE; RANTAN; READY; REKRAU; ROAD; RAILY; SCENT; SCOOT; SCOUT; SENTRY; SHALLOW; SHARP; SHELF; SHOVE; SHUNT; SKYTE; SLATE; SLY; SNAP; SPRKE; SPOT; SQUARE; STAIRS; STRAIGHT; STRETCH; STRING; SWING; TAILBOARD; TAKE; TAPPY; TILES; TIME; TICK; TRAMP; TOAST; TOP; UPPERS; VELVET; WALLABY; WARPAT; WIN, etc.]

ONCE. IN ONCE, *phr.* (common). —First time.

1900. SIMS, *In London's Heart*, 72. "Meaning, Jim," he said . . . "you found something in the cab as is of a private natur'?" "You've guessed it IN ONCE, father."

1900. *Free Lance*, 6 Oct., 16, 1. You've hit it IN ONCE.

ONE, *subs.* (common).—1. A lie: *see* WHOPPER.

2. (general).—A blow; a grudge; a score. Also ONE IN THE EYE.

1839. O'CONNELL, in *O'Connell Correspondence* (1888), ii. 168. I owe Brougham ONE, and I intend, if I can, to pay him.

1856. T. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School Days*, ii. vii. If we can slip the collar and do so much less without getting caught, that's ONE to us.

1883. J. H. WILSON, in *Longman's Mag.*, Nov., 103. But you know, Cap'n, you ain't a man to be trusted. I owe you ONE already for stealing my silver.

1892. *Ally Sloper*, 27 Feb., 67, 2. On his wife on one occasion saying to him, 'I wish you would reform, Bill, yourself,' he was much enraged, and gave her ONE for herself—not a Reform Bill, but IN THE EYE.

1900. SIMS, *In London's Heart*, 25. The girl took the money and went downstairs three at a time. She felt that it was, IN the outdoor language of Exeter Street, ONE IN THE EYE for her aunt.

ONE IN, *phr.* (tailors').—Hearing another's good fortune and wishing the same to oneself.

ONE OUT, *phr.* (tailors').—Congratulating oneself on a fortunate escape.

ONE OF MY COUSINS, *phr.* (old).—A harlot.—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

ONE OF US (or THEM), *phr.* (old).—'A woman of the town.'—RAY (1767); GROSE (1785).

ONE UNDER THE ARM, *phr.* (tailors').—An extra job.

ONE OUT OF IT, *phr.* (tailors').—'I don't want to be mixed up with it.'

ONE OF THE LORD'S OWN, *subs. phr.* (American).—A dandy.

ONE WITH T'OTHER, *phr.* (venerary).—Copulation: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

1661. *Old Song*, 'Maidens Delight' [FARMER, *Merry Songs and Ballads* (1897), i. 137]. Quoth she, my friend, let kissing end, Where with you do me smother, And run at Ring with t'other thing; A little o' th' ONE WITH T'OTHER.

TO BE ONE UPON ANOTHER'S TAW, *verb. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, ii. 193. ONE UPON YOUR TAW, a person who takes offence at the conduct of another, or conceives himself injured by the latter, will say, never mind I'll be ONE UPON YOUR TAW; or, I'll be a MARBLE ON YOUR TAW; meaning I'll be even with you some time.

ONE AND THIRTY, *adj. phr.* (old).—Drunk: *see* DRINKS and SCREWED.—RAY (1767).

ONE FOR HIS NOB, *phr.* (common).—1. A blow on the head.

2. (cards').—*See* NOB.

See THREE OUT.

ONE-A-PIECE. TO SEE ONE-A-PIECE, *verb. phr.* (common).—To see double: *see* DRINKS and SCREWED.

1842. *Punch*, ii. 21. Our head swims, and our eyes SEE ONE A-PIECE.

ONEE, *adj.* (theatrical).—One: *e.g.* ONEE SOLDI (or WIN) = one penny.

ONE-EYED SCRIBE, *subs. phr.* (American).—A revolver: *see* MEAT-IN-THE-POT.

ONE-HORSE (or-EYED), *adj.* (formerly American; now general).—Petty; insignificant; of no account. Also **ONE-GOAT**.

1858. *Washington Star* [quoted by BARTLETT]. On Friday last, the engineer of a fast train was arrested by the authorities of a **ONE-HORSE** town in Dauphin County, Pa., for running through the borough at a greater rate of speed than is allowed by their ordinances. Having neglected, however, to give publicity to these ordinances, they could not impose any fine; and their discomfiture was aggravated by the malicious excuse of the engineer, that 'he didn't know there was a town there!'

d.1877. MOTLEY, *Letters*, II. 334. Any other respectable, **ONE-HORSE** New England city.

1884. CLEMENS, *Huckleberry Finn*, xx. 195. There was a little **ONE-HORSE** town about three mile down the bend.

1886. GOLDWIN SMITH, *Nineteenth Century*, July, p. 21. The provincial University of Toronto was thrown open to Nonconformists, unluckily not before the practice of chartering sectarian institutions had been introduced, and Canada had been saddled with **ONE-HORSE** universities.

1888. *Boston Weekly Globe*, 28 Mar. It seems a shame to let a petty **ONE-GOAT** power kingdom insult our citizens.

ONE-IN-TEN, *subs. phr.* (old).—A parson. [In allusion to tithes].

ONE NITCH (or NICK), *subs. phr.* (printers').—A male child: **TWO NITCH** = a baby girl.

ONE O'CLOCK. See **LIKE**.

ONE-ER, *subs.* (common).—A person or thing of great parts: as a very successful play; an exceedingly pretty woman; a crushing blow, a 'monumental' lie, etc. Also **WUNNER**.

1840. DICKENS, *Old Curiosity Shop*, lviii. Do they often go where glory waits 'em and leave you here? Oh, yes; I believe you they do, returned the small servant. Miss Sally's sich a **ONE-ER** for that, she is.

1861. DUTTON COOK, *Paul Foster's Daughter*, x. Oh, I've got it at last—such a **ONENER**—clean off my legs—first blood—first knock down—everything.

1869. GREENWOOD, *Seven Curses of London*, . . . The watcher is generally hanging about, and he'll 'down' you with a **ONER** in the back or side (he won't hit you in the face, for fear of spoiling it).

1871. HAMILTON, *Parodies*, part 71, p. 269. Before a-inviting of you to enter, and taste the joys of Elysium to be 'ad at the small charge of one penny, I will exhibit to your astonished and admiring gaze a few pictorial illustrations of the wonders to be shortly disclosed to you. Give the drum a **ONE-ER**!

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippo*, xi. Well, pal, forgive me, I always was a **ONE-ER** for the gab. Here's off or the missus will be waiting. When you're off the pitch there's a bite and a sup at Duke's cottage, Lea, for you. So 'long!

1895. F. BOYLE, in *Idler*, Aug. Mrs. Mumson is a **ONER**.

2. (common).—A shilling: see **BLOW**.

ONE'S EYE, *subs. phr.* (tailors' and dressmakers').—A hiding-place for **CABBAGE** (*q.v.*); **HELL** (*q.v.*).

ONE TWO, *phr.* (pugilists').—See quot. 1823.

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN], s.v. **ONE TWO**. In boxing, two blows rapidly put in after each other. Jem Belcher was distinguished for his **ONE TWO**.

ONICKER, *subs.* (streets').—See quot.

1887. *Walford's Antiquarian*, 252. A mot and **ONICKER** are also terms for fallen women.

ONION, *subs.* (common).—1. The head. Hence, **OFF HIS ONION** = off his wits. See **TIBBY**.

2. (thieves').—A seal: generally in plural: e.g. **BUNCH OF ONIONS**.

1383. CHAUCER, *Prol. to Reeve's Tale*, l. 17. I fare as doth an OPENERS; That ilke fruyt is ever leng the wers Til it be roten in mullok or in stre.

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Les Clar. Langue Fran.*, s.v. OPVNARS.

1595. SHAKESPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, ii. 1. Now will he sit under a medlar-tree, And wish his mistress were that kind of fruit, As maids call medlars, when they laugh alone—Oh, Romeo, that she were, oh, that she were An OPEN-ARSE.

1598. FLORIO, *A Worlde of Wordes*, s.v. *Nespolo*, the fruit we call a Meddler or an OPEN-ARSE.

1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crw.*, s.v.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. MEDLAR. A fruit vulgarly called an OPEN-A—E, of which it is more truly than delicately said, that it is never ripe till it is rotten as a t—d, and then it is not worth a f—t.

2. (old).—A wench: see BAR-RACK-HACK and TART.—B. E. (c.1696).

OPEN C, *subs. phr.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

OPEN HOUSE, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—Hospitality for all comers.—B. E. (c.1696).

1530. PALSGRAVE, 597, 1. The Kyng is determynd to kepe house or OPEN HOUSE this Christmas.

1891. *Daily Chronicle*, 23 Mar. Mr. Verburgh, M.P., again played the part of host, and kept OPEN HOUSE in a large marquee near the winning-post.

OPERA BUFFER, *subs. phr.* (theatrical).—An actor in opera bouffe.

OPERA HOUSE, *subs. phr.* (old).—A workhouse. [Fr. Latin *opera* = work].

OPERATOR, *subs.* (old).—A pick-pocket.

O-PER-SE-O, *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—A Cryer.

1612. DEKKER, O PER SE O, or a new crier of lanterne and candle-lights [*Title*].

O.P.H., *phr.* (common).—‘Off’: e.g. ‘Demme, I’m O.P.H.’

OPPIDAN, *subs.* (Eton College).—A boy who boards in the town, as distinguished from a King’s Scholar.

OPINIATOR, *subs.* (old colloquial).—See quot.

1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crw.*, s.v. OPINIATOR, an Assuming positive Fellow, an obstinate self-conceited Cox-comb.

OPIUM-JOINT, *subs. phr.* (American).—An opium den.

OPTIC, *subs.* (once literary: now chiefly colloquial).—1. An eye. For synonyms see GLIMS.

1600. B. JONSON, *Cynthia's Revels*, i. 2. Whose OPTIQUES haue drunke the spirit of beautie.

1782. COWPER, *Hope*, 494. From which our nicer OPTICS turn away.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London* [Dick’s], 56. Those three nymphs who have so much dazzled your OPTICS . . .

1836. MICHAEL SCOTT, *Cruise of the Nudge*, 187. I distinctly saw, either with my bodily OPTIC, or my mind’s eye, I am not quite certain which to this hour, a dark figure standing on the long-yard.

1842. THOMAS EGERTON WILKS, *Bamboozling*. I’ve got a pain in my OPTICS.

1851. HAWTHORNE, *Seven Cables*, xvi. She screwed her dim OPTICS to their acutest point.

1888. *Daily Telegraph*, 15 Nov. I’ve got my OPTIC on ‘em and shall have ‘em by-and-by.

1891. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 10 Ap. A deep cut under the dexter OPTIC.

2. (old).—An optic-glass; a spy-glass.

1721. PRIOR, *Celia to Damon*. When you Love’s Joys through Honour’s OPTIC view.

OPTIME, *subs.* (University).—See quot.

TO ORDER ONE'S NAME, *verb. phr.* (Winchester School): obsolete).—See *quots.*

1866. MANSFIELD, *School Life at Winchester*, 223. ORDER YOUR NAME. An order given to a delinquent by the Head or Second Master, which was carried out by the boy requesting the Ostiarus to do so, the consequence of which was, that at the end of school that officer presented to the Master the victim's name on a Roll who forthwith received a Scrubbing. When the words "to the Bible Clerk" were added, the business was confided to that officer, who, with the Ostiarus, officiated at the subsequent ceremony, which in this case was called a Bibler.

1878. ADAMS, *Wykehamica*, xxiii. 429. ORDER YOUR NAME, the direction given to an offender by any of the authorities. The boy so directed, if he was in College, or if the order was given in school, had to go to the Ostiarus—or to the Prefect in course, if the offence was committed in commons—and give information of the order, and the reason why it had been given. The Ostiarus, or the Prefect in course, wrote down the culprit's name, together with that of the Master, and the offence, and carried it up to the Head or Second Master, when due execution was done.

ORDER-RACKET, *subs. phr.* (old).—*See quot.*

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, ii. 193. ORDER-RACKET, obtaining goods from a shop-keeper, by means of a forged order or false pretence.

ORDINARY, *subs.* (common).—A wife: *see DUTCH.*

ORGAN, *subs.* (Scots servants').—1. A clothes' trunk.

2. (old).—A pipe.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. ORGAN, WILL YOU COCK YOUR ORGAN, will you smoke your pipe.

3. (printers').—A workman who lends money to his fellows at exorbitant interest. TO PLAY THE ORGAN = to apply for such a loan.

TO CARRY THE ORGAN, *verb. phr.* (military).—To shoulder the pack or valise at defaulters' or marching order drill.

ORGAN-PIPE, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. The throat; the wind-pipe; the voice.

2. (dressmakers': obsolete).—In pl. = a fulness in skirt-backs created by folds of starched muslin.

ORIFICE, *subs.* (venerary).—The female *pudendum*: *see MONOSYLLABLE.*

ORIGINAL GO, *subs. phr.* (American).—A novel predicament.

1854. T. W. N. BAYLEY, *New Tale of a Tub*. Excellent! marvellous! beautiful! O! Isn't it now an ORIGINAL GO?

ORINOKO, *subs.* (rhyming).—*See quot.*

1874. HOTTEN, *Slang Dict., Rhyming Slang*, 367. ORINOKO (pronounced Orinoker), a poker.

ORNAMENT, *subs.* (venerary).—The female *pudendum*: *see MONOSYLLABLE.*

ORNYTHORHYNCHUS, *subs.* (Austrian).—A creditor; 'a beast with a bill.'

ORPHAN COLLAR, *subs. phr.* (American).—One that does not match the shirt in colour or material.

OSCHIVE. *See OCHIVE.*

OSTIARIUS, *subs.* (Winchester College: obsolete).—*See quots.*

1866. *Wykehamist*, No. 1, Oct. We know of nothing more which calls for notice, except the revival of Dr. Moberley of the OSTIARIUS—an office which had been discontinued for many years, but was revived by the Head Master on account of the great increase in the number of the School.

1866. MANSFIELD, *School Life at Winchester*, 223. OSTIARIUS—An office held by the *Præfects* in succession. The duties were, to keep order in school, collect the *Vulguses*, and prevent the boys from shirking out. It is also the official title for the Second Master.

1878. ADAMS, *Wykehamica*, xxiii. 429. OSTIARIUS, the *Præfect* in charge of school.

OSTLER, *subs.* (old).—1. An oat-stealer; and (2) in America, a horse-thief.—MATSELL (1859).

OTTER, *subs.* (common).—A sailor.

Adj. (costermongers').—Eight. [*It. otta*]. Also OTTO.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippe*, xiv. I'll take OTTO soldi, that's due soldi for baking and six soldi for nava.

OTTOMY, *subs.* (old).—A skeleton; a BAG OF BONES (*q.v.*); an ATOMY (*q.v.*). OTTOMISED=anatomised.

1738. SWIFT, *Polite Conversation* (Conv. i). *Lady Answ.* Why, my lord, she was handsome in her time; but she can't eat her cake and have her cake. I hear she grown a meer OTOMV.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. OTTOMY. You'll be scragged, OTTOMISED, and grin in a glass case, You'll be hanged, anatomised, and your skeleton kept in a glass case.

1824. H. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, III. ii. Is that Peter Bradley? asked Sybil. Ay, you may well ask whether that old dried-up OTOMY . . . be kith and kin of . . . Luke, said Turpin.

OUNCE, *subs.* (old).—See quotes.

1725. *New Cant. Dict.*, s.v. Half an OUNCE, Half-a-crown.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. Half an OUNCE, half a crown, silver being formerly estimated at a crown or five shillings an ounce.

OUT, *subs.* (old).—1. A dram-glass: they are made 'two-out' (= half-quartern), 'three-out,' and 'four-out.' When a man wants to 'treat' a couple of friends he asks for 'a quartern of gin and

three-out,' meaning, a quartern of gin and three glasses, which together will exactly hold that quantity.

1836. DICKENS, *Sketches by Bos*, 40. Having imbibed the contents of various 'three-outs' of gin and bitters in the course of the morning.

2. (colloquial).—One out of employment or office; specifically (in politics) a member of the party in 'opposition'. Cf. IN.

1768. GOLDSMITH, *Good Natured Man*, v. Was it for this I have been dreaded both by ins and outs? Have I been libelled in the *Gazetteer*, and promised in the *St. James's*?

1770. CHATTERTON, *Prophecy*. And doomed a victim for the sins. Of half the outs and all the ins.

1842. DICKENS, *American Notes*, II. The in's rubbed their hands; the out's shook their heads; the Government party said there never was such a good speech; the opposition declared there never was such a bad one.

1857. LAWRENCE, *Guy Livingstone* (5th ed.), 216. If he had backed the in instead of the OUT.

1884. *Pall Mall Gazette*, 7 July. The pledges which the ins have to contend with in their strife with the outs.

1888. *Boston Daily Globe*. It is the civil service that turns out all the ins and puts in the OUTS.

1890. NORTON, *Political Americanisms*, s.v. Ins and OUTS.

3. (colloquial).—Leave to go out; an OUTING (*q.v.*); a holiday.

1847. HALLIWELL, *Archaic Words*, etc., s.v.

1852. DICKENS, *Bleak House*, vii. Us London lawyers don't often get an OUT.

1855. MRS. GASKELL, *North and South*, xiii. When I have gone for an OUT, I've always wanted to go high up and see far away, and take a deep breath o' fulness in that air.

1862-5. SHIRLEY BROOKS, *Naggletons* (1875), p. 302. We have had three pleasant days, Maria, and I think you need not have finished the OUT with a row.

4. (American).—A discarded mistress.—MATSELL (1859).

Verb. (thieves').—1. To kill. Whence OUTING-DUES.

1898. *Pink 'Un and Pelican*, 279. It was a dire calamity for a Cohen to handle the dead. "He is out," gasped the Jew.

1900. SIMS, *In London's Heart*, 294. He glanced contemptuously at the prostrate form of his accomplice. "Looks like I've OUTED him," he said, "Good job if I have—he'll never blab again." *Ibid.* 123. "I'm hanged if I haven't done for him. It's OUTING DUES this time if we're copped." "Dead!" exclaimed Joe.

2. (pugilists').—To knock out an opponent so that he fails to respond at the call of time.

1898. *Pink 'Un and Pelican*, 86. 'Gently, my lad, gently . . . yer don't want to knock 'im out yet; give us a little show o' yer quality afore you OUTS him.'

Adv. (old).—1. Tippy: *see* DRINKS and SCREWED.

2. (colloquial).—General (society)=just presented; (cricketers')=sent from the wickets; (politicians')=not in office; (thieves')=released from gaol; (market-men's)=not on sale; (popular)=(1) having a tendency to lose, (2) wrong, inaccurate, and (3) unfashionable.

1660. PEPYS, *Diary*, 7 Oct. Calling at my father's to change my long black cloake for a short one (long cloakes being now quite out).

1877. *Belgravia*, August, 189. This young lady is only just out. She lacks the ease, the imperturbability, the *savoir-vivre* of her elder sister.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, iii. 223. Oh, that's one of the cleverest gentlemen cracksmen out.

1885. DICKENS, *Dorrit*, i. xvi. 123. They were all so easy and cheerful together (Daniel Doyce either sitting out like an amused spectator at cards, or coming in with some shrewd little experiences of his own, when it happened to be to the purpose).

TO LIVE OUT, *verb. phr.* (American).—To be in domestic service: *i.e.* as living from home.

1860. *New York Tribune* [BARTLETT]. She came to this city and LIVED OUT as a cook.

1877. TERHUNE, *Hidden Path*, 78. She has never LIVED OUT before (*Century*).

OUT OF IT (THE HUNT, OF THE RUNNING), *adj. phr.* (colloquial). 1. Debarred from participation; having no chance or share; completely ignorant.

1889. *Echo*, 9 Feb. For example—respecting 'the reversion' to the Laureateship—we were informed a day or two back that Mr. Browning was OUT OF THE RUNNING.

TO STAND OUT, *verb. phr.* (common).—To take no part.

OUT OF TWIG, *adj. phr.* (old).—1. *See* quot.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, ii. 194. To put any article OUT OF TWIG, as a stolen coat, cloak, etc., is to alter it in such a way that it cannot be identified. *Ibid.* To put yourself OUT OF TWIG, is to disguise your dress and appearance, to avoid being recognised, on some particular account.

2. (old).—*See* quot.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, ii. 149. A man reduced by poverty to wear a shabby dress is said by his acquaintances to be OUT OF TWIG.

TO PLAY AT IN AND OUT. *See* IN AND IN and IN AND OUT.

OUT OF GOD'S BLESSING INTO THE WARM SUN, *phr.* (old).—From better to worse.

1581. LVLV, *Euphues*, Z. 3. b. Therefore if thou wilt follow my advice, and prosecute thine owne determination, THOU SHALT COME OUT OF A WARME SUNNE INTO GOD'S BLESSING.

1605. SHAKESPEARE, *Lear*, ii. 2. Good King, thou must approve the common saw; Thou OUT OF HEAVEN'S BENEDICTION comest TO THE WARME SUN.

1608. SIR JOHN HARRINGTON, *Catal. of Bishops, Carlyle*. Marks—removed from Carlisle to Lamos in Greece; viz. OUT OF GOD'S BLESSING INTO A WARME SUNNE, as the saying is.

1615. HARRINGTON, *Epigrams*, ii. 56. Pray God they bring us not, when all is done, OUT OF GOD'S BLESSING INTO THIS WARM SUN.

1660. HOWELL, *Eng. Proverbs*, 5. 2.v.

1760. RAY, *Proverbs*. 2.v.

OUT FOR AN AIRING, *phr.* (racing).—Said of a horse not meant to win.

1880. *Sporting Times*, 29 June. But while Isabel, in racing slang, was fairly 'on the job,' Her friend was only OUT FOR AN AIRING.

1880. *Standard*, 25 June. Trainers and jockeys, from various trivial circumstances, very easily gathered whether a particular horse was only OUT FOR AN AIRING, or whether it was on the job.

[Other colloquial combinations are TO BE AT OUTS=to quarrel; TO MAKE NO OUTS (of a person)=to misunderstand; OUT OF COUNTENANCE=confounded; OUT OF HAND=(?) immediately, without delay, (s) ungovernable; OUT OF CRV=out of measure; OUT OF FRAME=out of order; OUT OF HEART=won out (of land), down hearted (of persons); OUT (or DOWN) AT HEEL (or AT ELBOWS)=shabbily dressed; OUT AT LEG=feeding in hired pastures (of cattle); OUT-OF-POCKET=a loser; OUT OF TEMPER=too hot, or too cold; OUT OF PRINT=see quot.; OUT OF THE WAY=uncommon, etc., etc. Also see BARREL; COLLAR; FUNDS; HARNESS; HAVE; KELTER; LOOSE; LUG; PICAROON; POCKET; PUFF; REGISTER; SORTS; WOOD.

d.1555. LATIMER [*Century*]. The King's majesty when he cometh to age, will see a redress of those things so OUT OF FRAME.

1605. SHAKESPEARE, *King Lear*, ii. 2. A good man's future may grow OUT AT HEELS.

1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, 2.v. OUT AT HEELS.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, 2.v. OUT AT HEELS.

1812. *Lexicon Balatronicum*, 2.v.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, ii. 194. OUT OF THE WAY, a thief who knows that he is sought after by the traps on some information, and consequently goes out of town, or otherwise conceals himself, is said by his pals to be OUT OF THE WAY FOR SO AND SO, naming the particular offence he stands charged with. [See WANTED].

1823. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* [EGAN]. OUT OF PRINT. Slang made use of by booksellers. In speaking of any person that is dead, they observe, HE IS OUT OF PRINT.

1851-6. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab. and Lond. Poor*, iii. 122. He was a little DOWN AT HEEL.

OUT-AND-OUT, *adj.* and *adv.* (colloquial).—Thorough; PRIME (*q.v.*); 'far and away.'

. . . . Rawlinson MS., C. 36. The kyng was good alle aboute, And she was wykyd OUTE AND OUTE, For she was of suche comforte, She lovyd mene ondir her lorde.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, ii. 193. OUT-AND-OUT, quite; completely; effectually.

1837. THACKERAY, *Yellow Plush Papers*, in *Fraser's Mag.*, 10 Oct. Skelton's Anatomy is a work which as been long wanted in the literary world A reglar, slap up, no mistake, OUT-AN'-OUT account of the manners of gentele society.

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, vii. 71. A quarrelsome family, or a malicious family, or even a good OUT-AND-OUT mean family, would open a field of action as I might do something in.

1874. E. L. LINTON, *Patricia Kemball*, vii. You are OUT-AND-OUT the most independent radical for a lady I have ever seen.

1897. KENNARD, *Girl in Brown Habit*, ii. That's the way with them OUT-AND-OUT sportsmen. They're always the first to come to a comrade's assistance.

OUT-AND-OUTER, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—A person or thing, superlative.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, ii. 194. OUT AND OUTER, an incorrigible depredator, who will rob friend or stranger indiscriminately. *Ibid.* A person of a resolute determined spirit, who pursues his object without regard to danger or difficulties.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London* (DICK), 95. Logic . . . was considered an OUT-AND-OUTER.

1829. *Old Song* (FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 107). Are they OUT-AND-OUTERS, dearie?

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xl. p. 354. It was discovered that one of the turnkeys had a bed to let . . . If you'll come with me, I'll show it you at once, said the man. It ain't a large 'un, but it's an OUT-AND-OUTER to sleep in.

1838. DICKENS, *Nicholas Nickleby*, lx. I am the man as is guaranteed . . . to be an OUT-AND-OUTER in morals.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xvii. Master Clive was pronounced an OUT-AND-OUTER, a swell, and no mistake.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, iii. She were an OUT-AND-OUTER in going into shops on the slich.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, xx. Isn't he a regular OUT-AND-OUTER to look at?

1893. MILLIKEN, *'Arry Ballads*, 37. Now one twigs, OUT-AND-OUTERS take down wots too spice a'most for the Pis.

OUTER, *subs.* (shooting).—1. That part of a target used in rifle-shooting, which is outside the circles surrounding the bull's-eye; and (2) a shot which strikes the outer part of a target.

1884. *Times*, 23 July. Running through the scoring gamut with an OUTER, a magpie, and a miss.

OUTFIT, *subs.* (colonial).—*See* quot. 1840.

d.1840. MCCLURE, *Rocky Mountains*, 211. In the Far West and on the Plains, every thing is an OUTFIT, from a railway train to a pocket-knife. It is applied indiscriminately,—to a wife, a horse, a dog, a cat, or a row of pins.

1889. O'REILLY, *Fifty Years on the Trail* . . . The wagon master had the presence of mind to gallop his team out into the prairie, whilst the entire OUTFIT made for the best cover it could find.

1888. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat*, 16 Feb. The fortune we had longed for lay at our feet . . . That night we let three of the most reckless devils in the OUTFIT into the secret, and the next morning I started for San Francisco.

1888. *Missouri Republican*, 1 Ap. I returned to Las Vegas with a freighter, whose OUTFIT consisted of six horses and two wagons, one of the latter being a trail vehicle.

OUT - HEROD. To OUT-HEROD HEROD, *verb.* (colloquial).—To exceed in excess.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet*, iii. 2, 15. I would have such a fellow whipped for o'er-doing Termagant; it OUT-HERODS HEROD: Pray you, avoid it.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London* (DICK's), 23. The author . . . intends to do a great deal, but he does not mean to OUT-HEROD HEROD.

1845. POE, *Prose Tales*, l. 343. The figure in question had OUT-HERODED HEROD, and gone beyond the bounds of even the prince's indefinite decorum.

d.1859. DE QUINCEY, *Essenes*, i. Yet another and a very favourite emperor OUT-HERODS even this butcher (Gallienus).

OUTING, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A holiday; an OUT (*q.v.*).

1860. HALIBURTON ('Sam Slick'), *The Season Ticket*, No. vii. I once gave her an OUTING to London, and when she returned, I asked her how she liked it.

1864. SWAN, 28 Dec., *Review of Hotten's Sl. Dict.* There is no mention of a holiday term in very common use that we ought to have found here alphabetically recorded in 'The Slang Dictionary'—meaning the phrase of an OUTING.

1879. JAS. PAVN, *High Spirits (Adventure in a Forest)*. I only knew Epping Forest as a spot rarely visited save by the wild East Enders on their Sunday OUTINGS.

1885. *Field*, 4 Ap. They got their OUTING which is a great deal.

2. (provincial).—*See* quot.

1890. GRANT ALLEN, *The Tents of Shem*, 2. Nobody, and especially not a peppery old General who's served more than half his life in India likes to have it dictated to him by RANK OUTSIDERS what disposition he's to make of his own money.

1901. *M. A. P.*, 2 Feb., 113, 2. As he has already some connection with the music halls, he must have more opportunities of learning the ropes than an OUTSIDER.

3. (racing).—A person who fails to gain admission to the 'ring' from pecuniary or other causes.

OVEN, *subs.* (old).—1. A large mouth.—GROSE (1785); MATSELL (1859).

2. (venery).—The female *pu-dendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

c.1750. DUFFY, *Pills to Purge, &c.* (1750), vi. 91. 'The Jolly Tradesmen.' But if my OVEN be over-hot, I dare not thrust it in, Sir; For burning of my Wrigling-Pole, My Skill's not worth a Pin, Sir.

IN THE SAME OVEN, *adj. phr.* (common).—In the same plight.

OVER, *subs.* (commercial).—In *pl.* A surplus on the day's accounts; FLUFF (*q.v.*); MENAVELINGS (*q.v.*).

TO COME OVER (OR THE OLD SOLDIER OVER) ONE. See COME OVER and COME THE OLD SOLDIER.

TO GET OVER, *verb. phr.* (common).—To get the better; TO BEST (*q.v.*).

1870. HAZLEWOOD and WILLIAMS, *Leave it to Me*, i. She'll soon GET OVER her foolish attachment, but whether or no she don't GET OVER me.

TO CALL (OR FETCH) OVER THE COALS, *verb. phr.* (common).—To reprimand.

1719. DUFFY, *Pills to Purge, &c.*, iii. 22. Yet your Blacksmith can FETCH THEM OVER THE COALS.

TO DO OVER, *verb. phr.* (venery).—To possess a woman: see GREENS and RIDE.

OVER THE BAY, *phr.* (American).—Drunk: see DRINKS and SCREWED.

OVER THE STILE, *phr.* (rhyming).—Sent for trial. (HOTTEN).

TO PUT OVER THE DOOR, *verb. phr.* (old colloquial).—To turn out; TO GIVE THE KEY OF THE STREET (*q.v.*).

OVER AT THE KNEES, *phr.* (stable).—Weak in the knees.

OVER-SHOES, OVER BOOTS, *phr.* (old).—See quot.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*. OVER-SHOES OVER BOOTS, or to go through-stitch.

See also BENDER; BROOM-STICK; and LEFT.

OVER-DAY TARTS, *subs. phr.* (Billingsgate).—See quot.

1889. *Tit Bits*, 17 Aug., 298, 2. About 24 hours after capture the herring is liable to the pouring out of extravasation of blood about his gills and fins, which darkened and damaged or bruised appearance is quaintly called in the fish trade OVER-DAY TARTS.

OVERDO, *verb.* (old: now recognised).—See quot. c.1696.

1614. JONSON, *Bartholomew Fair*, Justice OVERDO, &c.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. OVERDO, double diligence.

OVERDRAW. TO OVERDRAW THE BADGER. See BADGER.

OVERFLOW AND PLUNDER, *subs. phr.* (theatrical).—See quot.

1890. COLEMAN (*Slang, Jargon, and Cant*), s.v. OVERFLOW and PLUNDER. The unsuspecting auditor has an order for the pit; he goes there, and finds the pit crammed to suffocation by people who have not paid. Upon payment of sixpence he goes to the upper boxes, they are also crowded; sixpence more takes him to the dress circle. Before he can obtain a seat he is bled of another sixpence for his greatcoat, another for his umbrella, and another for a programme. The performances in these places were as disreputable as the management, and, as a rule, would disgrace a show at a country fair.

OVERLANDER, *subs.* (Australian).—A tramp; a SUNDOWNER (*q.v.*).
Also OVERLAND MAN and OVERLAND-MAILER.

OVERLAND-TROUT, *subs. phr.* (American).—Bacon.

OVERRUN. See CONSTABLE.

OVERSCUTCHED (OVERSWITCHED OR OVERWHIPPED) - HOUSEWIFED, *subs. phr.* (old).—See *quots.*, BARRACK-HACK and TART.

.... Kennett MS. [Halliwell]. An OVERSWITCHT HOUSEWIFE, a loose wanton slut, a whore.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *2 Henry IV*, iii. 2. He came ever in the rear-ward of the fashion; and sung those tunes to OVERSCUTCHED HUSWIFES that he heard the carmen whistle, and sware—they were his fancies, or his good-nights.

1675. RAY, *North-Country Words*. OVERSWITCHED housewife. A whore; a ludicrous word.

OVERSEEN, *adj.* (old).—More or less in liquor: see DRINKS and SCREWED.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.* Well nigh whittled, almost drunke, somewhat OVERSEENE.

d. 1654. L'ESTRANGE (THOMS. (1838), *Anecd. and Trad.*, p. 54.) He heard he tooke a Cuppe too much at Ipswich, and was sorry . . . he should be so much OVERSEENE.

1847. HALLIWELL, *Arch. Words*, etc., s.v.

OVERSEER, *subs.* (old).—A man in the pillory.—GROSE (1785).

OVERSHOT, *adj.* (common).—Drunk: see DRINKS and SCREWED.

OVERSPARRED, *adj.* (nautical).—Top-heavy; drunk: see DRINKS and SCREWED.

1891. CLARK RUSSELL, *Ocean Tragedy*, 4. I believe he could have carried a whole bottle in his head without exhibiting himself as in the least degree OVERSPARRED.

OVERTAKEN, *adj.* (common).—Drunk: see DRINKS and SCREWED.

1655. MASSINGER, *Very Woman*, iii. 5. And take heed of being OVERTAKEN with too much drink.

1692. HACKET, *Life of Williams*, . . . He was temperate also in his drinking . . . but I never spake with the man that saw him OVERTAKEN.

1699. CONGREVE, *Way of the World*, iv. 10. My nephew's a little OVERTAKEN, cousin—but 'tis with drinking your health.

1712. *Spectator*, No. 450. I do not remember I was ever OVERTAKEN in drink.

1847. HALLIWELL, *Arch. Words*, etc., s.v.

1871. MRS. S. C. HALL, in *Chambers's Misc.*, No. 122, 11. I'm sure Murphy must have been OVERTAKEN, or he'd never dare to propose such a thing.

OVERTOYS BOX, *subs. phr.* (Winchester College).—A box like a cupboard to hold books: see TOYS.

OWL, *subs.* (common).—1. A prostitute: see BARRACK-HACK and TART.

2. (University).—A member of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge: obsolete.

3. (general).—A person much about at night.

A CHOKING OYSTER, *subs. phr.* (old).—A reply that leaves one nothing to say.

d.1556. UDALL, *Apoph.*, 61. At an other season, to a feloe laiyng to his rebuke that he was over deintie of his mouthe and diete, he did with this reason give a STOPPING OISTRE.

1547. HEYWOOD, *Proverbs*, xi. [She] therefore deviseth to cast in my teeth checks and CHOKING OYSTERS.

OLD OYSTER, *subs. phr.* (common).—A vulgar, playful endearment.

1892. MILLIKEN, *'Arry Ballads*, 17. Life don't want lifting, OLD OYSTER.

THE OYSTER, *subs.* (venery).—The semen. Whence OYSTER CATCHER = the female *pudendum*; and OYSTER-CATCHING = whoring.

OYSTER-FACED, *adj.* (streets').—In need of shaving. [In allusion to the oyster's beard].



1629. GAULE, *Holy Madn.*, 94. What an ALDERMAN'S FACE he comes.

TO SHOW ONE'S PACES, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To exhibit one's capability; to show what one can do.

PACER, *subs.* (colloquial).—Primarily a fast horse; hence anything of great speed or activity.

PACK, *subs.* (old).—A prostitute: *see* TART. Also a general term of reproach with no reference to sex. *See* NAUGHTY.

Adj. (Scots': colloquial).—Intimate; familiar.

1795. BURNS, iii. 3. Nae doubt but they were fain o' ither; An' unco' PACK an thick the gither.

1805. NICOL, *Poems*, ii. 89. They war auld comrades, frank an' free, AN' PACK an' thick as tods cou'd be.

1808. JAMIESON, *Dict.*, s.v. PACK. Probably a cant word from English PACK, a number of people confederated.

Verb. (also PACK OFF, SEND PACKING, GIVE A PACKING-PENNY TO, etc.) (old colloquial).—1. To dismiss without ceremony; to send about one's business; to discharge summarily; also, to depart hurriedly.—B. E. (c. 1696).

1540. LYNDSEY, *Satyre of the Thrie Estaitis* [E. E. T. S. (1869) line 975] Suyith! hursun Carle: gang, PAK the hence.

1580. BARET, *Alvearie* [HALLIWELL]. Make speede to flee, be PACKING awaie.

1593. SHAKESPEARE, *Taming of the Shrew*, ii. 1. If she do bid me PACK, I'll give her thanks, As though she bid me stay by her a week. *Ibid.* *Richard III.* (1597) i. 1. He . . . must not die, Till George be PACK'D with post horse up to Heav'n.

1603. TOMKIS, *Lingua* [BREWER]. Roses and bays, PACK hence! This crown and robe . . . How gallantly it fits me!

1608. DAY, *Law Triches*, iii. Win, prethee give the Fidler a testar and SEND HIM PACKING.

1609. JONSON, *Case is Altered*, iii. 3. Will you GIVE A PACKING-PENNY to virginity?

1629. *Descr. of Love* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896) 15]. Without delay, poore wretches they will set their Duds A PACKING.

1641. BAKER, *Chronicles*, 106. So once again is Gaveston SENT PACKING out of the Kingdom.

1659. DAY, *Blind Beggar*, i. 2. *Tudy.* Do you but send away Sir Walter Playnsey, Let me alone to PACK the Cardinal.

1662. *Rump Songs*, i. 59. And so we'll banish Popery, And SEND IT PACKING hence.

1664. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie*, 78. And if that he shall still be lacking, Then back again we'll straight be PACKING.

1667. DRYDEN, *Sir Martin Marhall*, iv. One word more of this gibberish, and I'll SET YOU PACKING from your new service.

1656. *Muses Recr.* [HOTTEN], 31. We must all PACK into the North.

1728. BAILEY, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v. PACK. To PACK UP HIS AWLS . . . to march off, to go away in haste.

1730. MILLER, *Humours of Oxford*, iv. 2. I have SENT HIM A PACKING as conjurors do a ghost.

1766. GOLDSMITH, *Vicar of Wakefield*, xxi. Gentle or Simple out she shall PACK.

1815. SCOTT, *Guy Mannering*, xxiv. I believe he would have PACKED him back here, but his nephew told him it would do up the free trade for many a day, if the youngster got back to Scotland.

1846. PLANCHE, *Court Favour*, i. *Lucy.* It would be so charming to SEND all the Dutch PACKING . . . and for you to be made generalissimo!

1884. WOOD, *Johnny Ludlow*, 1st S. No. vi. 94. I'll send you back to school: you shall both PACK OFF this very hour.

2. (American).—To drink: *see* DRINKS and SCREWED.

1847. PORTER, *Quarter Race*, &c., 103. The captain used to boast that he could PACK a gallon without its setting him back any.

TO EAT THE PACK (OR PACKIE),
verb. phr. (Scots').—To waste
one's substance ; to spend all.
EAT-THE-PACK = a spendthrift.
Cf. PACT.

PACKET, *subs.* (provincial).—A hoax ;
a false report. PACKETS = an
expression of incredulity.—GROSE
(1785).

PACK-THREAD, *subs.* (old).—Covert
obscenity.—GROSE (1785).

PACT. TO SPEND THE PACT, *verb.*
phr. (Scots').—To waste one's
substance : also TO PERISH THE
PACT.

PAD, *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. A path ;
a road or highway. Also HIGH-
PAD.

1573. HARMAN, *Caveat* (1814), 66.
The HYGH PAD, the high way.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Marhall*,
40 (H. Club's Repr. 1874), s.v.

1611. MIDDLETON and DEKKER,
Roaring Girl, v. 1. Avast, to the PAD,
let us bing.

1622. FLETCHER, *Beggars's Bush*. To
maund on the PAD.

1625. JONSON, *Staple of News*, ii. A
rogue, a very canter I, sir, one that maunds
upon the PAD.

d. 1721. PRIOR, *Thief and Cordelier*.
The squire of the PAD and the knight of
the post.

1724. COLES, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v.

1818. SCOTT, *Rob Roy*, iv. Gentle-
men of the PAD, as they were then termed.

2. (old colloquial).—An easy-
paced horse ; an ambler. Also
PAD-NAG.—B. E. (c. 1696).

1717. CIBBER, *Nonjuror*, i. 1. I
was about buying a PAD-NAG for your
sister.

1770. FOOTE, *Lame Lover*, i. 1. He
would not sample to break an appointment
. . . in order to buy a PAD-NAG for a lady.

d. 1892. TENNYSON, *Lady of Shalot*,
ii. 20. An abbot on an ambling PAD.

3. (old).—A highway robber ;
a foot-PAD ; a tramp : also
PADDER and (Scots') PADDIST.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Marhall*,
p. 40 (H. Club's Repr. 1874), s.v.

1665. R. HEAD, *English Rogue*, i.
v. p. 51 (1874), s.v.

1625. MASSINGER, *New Way to Pay
Old Debts*, ii. 1. Are they PADDERs or
Abram-men that are your consorts ?

1668. DRYDEN, *Albucaser*, *Prol.*
19. Who, like bold PADDERs, scorn by
night to prey, But rob by sunshine, in the
face of day.

1671. ANNAND, *Mysterium Picta-
tis*, 85. A PADDIST or highwayman,
attempting to spoil a preacher, ordering
him to stand . . . was answered, etc.

1672. SHADWELL, *Epsom Wells*, iii.
[*Wks.* (1720), ii. 245]. Bribes received
from PADS, pick-pockets, and shop-lifts.

1678. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, iii. 1. He
spurr'd as jockies use to break, Or PADDERs
to secure a rail.

1680. COTTON, *Gamster*, 333. Gilts,
PADs, biters, etc. . . may all pass under
the general appellation of rooks.

1683. CROWNE, *City Politics*, v. 1.
Such rogues as you, who abuse your trade,
and like so many PADDERs, make all people
deliver their purse that ride in the road of
justice.

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v.
PAD . . . RUM PAD, a daring or stout
Highwayman.

1707. WARD, *Hudibras Redivivus*,
ii. iv. 22. Since the Ladder Has turn'd
off many a handsom PADDER.

1708. *London Bewitched*, 6. This
month hedges . . . will be the leacher's
bawdy-house ; the PADDER's ambushade ;
. . . and the farmer's security.

1712. SHIRLEY, *Triumph of Wit*
[*FARMER, Musa Pedestris* (1896), 37].
The third was a PADDER, that fell to decay,
Who used for to plunder upon the high-
way.

1746. *Poor Robin* [NARES]. Mercury,
What does that thief Mercury do with
Venus ? Why even the very same that
hectors and PADDERs do with ladies of
pleasure.

1781. MESSINK, *Song* [Choice of Har-
lequin]. Ye scamps, ye PADs, ye divers,
and all upon the lay.

1318. SCOTT, *Heart of Midlothian*, xxv. A gude fellow that has been but a twelvemonth on the lag, be he ruffler or Padder.

1819. BYRON, *Don Juan*, II. 11. These freeborn sounds proceeded from four Pads in ambush laid.

4. (old).—See quot. 1823.

1664. ETHEREDGE, *The Comical Revenge*, 1. 2. *Palmer* . . . I am grown more than half virtuous of late. I have laid the dangerous PAD now quite aside.

c.1819. *Song of the Young Prig* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 83]. The cleanest angler on THE PAD.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. PAD (the)—highway robbery, forcibly. *Foot-pads*—dismounted highwaymen. Pads—are also street-robbers.

c.1824. EGAN, *Boxiana*, iii. 621-2. For Dick had beat the hoof UPON THE PAD.

1892. HENLEY and STEVENSON, *Deacon Brodie*, II. i. 23. He's a light hand on the PAD, has Jemmy, and leaves his mark.

5. (old).—A bed: also POD. [POD = a bundle (*Dict. Cant. Crew*), often used as a pillow or bed]. See LETTY.

Verb. (Old Cant).—1. To travel on foot; to tramp: also TO PAD (PLOD, BANG, or BEAT) THE HOOF (*q.v.*). Fr. *fendre Pergot* (= to split the spur).

1598-9. SHAKESPEARE, *Merry Wives of Windsor*, I. 3. Trudge, PLOD, away, O' THE HOOF.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Mark-Ail*, 'The Maunder's Wooing.' O Ben mort wilt thou PAD with me.

1644-55. HOWELL, *Letters*, I. i. 17 [1726]. The Secretary was put to BEAT THE HOOF himself, and foot it home.

d.1659. BRADFORD, *Letters* [Parker Soc. (1858), II. 46]. Though the weather be foul . . . yet go not ye alone . . . your brothers and sisters PAD the same path.

1684. BUNYAN, *Pilgrim's Progress*, II. A lion . . . came a great PADDING pace after.

1665. HEAD, *Eng. Rogue*, I. vi. 59. BEATING THE HOOF we overtook a Cart.

1687. BROWN, *Saints in Up*, 82 [Wks. (1730), I. 78.] We BEAT THE HOOF as pilgrims.

1748. DYCHE, *Dict.*, s.v. Hoof. To BEAT THE HOOF (V.) to walk much up and down, to go a-foot.

1788. PICKEN, *Poems*, 37, 85. Fare-weel, ye wordiest pair o' shoon, On you I've PADDED, late an' soon.

1789. PARKER, *Life's Painter* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 69]. Ere they to church did PAD, To have it christen'd Joe, sir.

1859. MATSELL, *Vocab.* I must PAD like a bull or the cops will nail me.

1868. BROWNING, *Ring and Book*, II. 277. The muzzled ox . . . gone blind in PADDING round and round one path.

1880. SOMERVILLE, *Fables*, I. Two toast, with all their trinkets gone, PADDING the streets for half-a-crown.

1883. *Daily News*, 22 June, 3, 2. As the child of Seven Dials walks the streets, PADDING THE weary HOOF . . . he sees plenty of street sights.

1887. HENLEY, *Fillon's Straight Tip*, 2. PAD with a slang, or chuck a fag.

2. (old).—To rob on foot, or on the highway: also TO GO ON THE PAD.—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

1639. FORD, *Lady's Trial*, v. I. One can . . . pick a pocket, PAD for a cloak, or hat, and, in the dark, Pistol a straggler for a quarter-ducet.

1685. COTTON MATHER, *Discourse on Witchcraft* (1689), 7. As if you or I should say: We never met with any robbers on the road, therefore there never was any PADDING there.

d.1745. SWIFT, to Mr. Congreve [Century]. These PAD on wit's high-road, and suits maintain, with those they rob.

ON THE PAD, *phr.* (common).—On the tramp.

1851. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.* I. 46a. Her husband was ON THE PAD in the country.

TO STAND PAD, *verb. phr.* (vagrants')—To beg by the way-side.

1862. H. MAYHEW, *London Lab.* iv. 24. Beggars . . . who STAND PAD with fakement and pretend to hide their faces.

1875. *Letter* [RIBTON-TURNER, *Vagrants and Vagrancy*, 642]. I obtained three children . . . for three shilling, . . . to STAND PAD with me . . . on a Saturday.

TO PAD ROUND, *verb. phr.* (tailors')—To pay great attention to a customer; to cringe; TO CRAWL.

GENTLEMEN OF THE PAD.
See PADDER.

PAD IN THE STRAW, *subs. phr.* (old colloquial).—Anything amiss; danger concealed; 'a snake in the grass.'

1551. STILL, *Gammer Gurton's Needle*, v. 2. Ye perceive by this lingring there is a PAD IN THE STRAW.

15 [?] COLLIER, *Old Ballads* [HALLIWELL]. Here lyes in dede the PADDE WITHIN THE STRAW.

PAD-BORROWER, *subs. phr.* (old).
A horse thief.—GROSE (1785).

PAD-CLINKING, *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—Hobnobbing with foot-pads.

1865. KINGSLEY, *Hillyars and Burtons*, xix. My PAD-CLINKING . . . bucks, Good day.

PADDED, *subs.* (old).—1. See PAD; *subs.* sense 3.

2. *in pl.* (common).—Feet; boots, or shoes; see CREEPERS.

1828. EGAN, *Finish to Tom and Jerry*, 309. My PADDERS, my stampers, my buckets, otherwise my boots.

PADDING-CRIB (OR -KEN), *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—A lodging house; cf. DOSS-HOUSE.

1851. H. MAYHEW, *London Lab.* i. 261. Others resort to the regular PADDING-KENS, or houses of call for vagabonds.

1857. SNOWDEN, *Mag. Assist.* 444, s.v.

1866. *Temple Bar*, xvi. 184. Let the spikes be what they may they were a great deal better than the PADDING-KENS.

1883. *Referee*, 25 March, 1, 4. The hotel and lodging-house keepers, the proprietors of PADDING-KENS, . . . expect to make profit out of the race being held where it is to be held.

1889. *Answers*, 11 May, 374. Not long ago considerable disturbances took place at this very PADDEN KEN.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippo*, xiv. Before you can open a PADDIN-KEN, you must get a licence from the charpering carsey which lasts for a stretch.

PADDINGTON-FAIR, *subs.* (old).—A hanging. [Tyburn being in Paddington Parish]. TO DANCE THE PADDINGTON FRISK = to be hanged: see LADDER.—*Dict. Cant. Crew* (1696); GROSE (1785).

PADDINGTON-SPECTACLES, *subs. phr.* (old).—The cap pulled over the eyes of a criminal on the scaffold: see PADDINGTON-FAIR.

PADDLE, *subs.* (common).—The hand: see DADDLE.

Verb. (common).—1. To drink: hence TO HAVE PADDLED = to be intoxicated: see DRINKS and SCREWED.

2. (venery).—To play with a woman; TO MESS ABOUT: see FIRKYTOODLE.

1604. SHAKESPEARE, *Winter's Tale*, i. 7. PADDLING palms and pinching fingers.

1847. HALLIWELL, *Dict.*, s.v. PADDLE. . . . *etiam designat mollior manibus tractare aliquid et agitare*, as TO PADDLE in a ladies neck or bosom.

3. (American).—To go or run away.

See CANOE.

PADDY, *subs.* (common).—1. An Irishman: also PADDY-WHACK and PADDYLANDER. Hence, PADDY-LAND = Ireland.—GROSE (1785).

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. Bog-trotter; Emeraldler; Mick, mike or micky; paddylander; paddy-whack; Pat; patent Frenchman; patlander; shirt.

1801. SHARPE [*Correspondence* (1888), i. 113]. You would be much surprised to see these cronies of mine . . . they are all there PADDIES.

1817. SCOTT, *Search after Happiness*, xxii. The odds that foil'd Hercules foil'd PADDY WHACK. . . . Alack! Ub-bubboo! PADDY had not—a shirt to his back!!!

1850. SMEDLEY, *Frank Fairleigh*, lx. After I had had a good laugh . . . I . . . 'discoursed' 'em, as PADDY calls it.

1874. LINTON, *Patricia Kemball*, xii. He once went over on business to what he always called PADDY-LAND.

18 [?]. *Irish Song* (HOTTEN). I'm PADDY WHACK, from Ballyhack.

2. (common).—A rage; a passion: also PADDY-WHACK.

To COME PADDY OVER, *verb. phr.* (American).—To bamboozle; to humbug.

PADDY QUICK, *subs.* and *adj.* (rhyming slang).—1. A stick; and (2) thick.

PADDY'S BLACKGUARDS, *subs. phr.* (military).—The Royal Irish Regiment, formerly The 18th Foot. Also "The Namurs."

PADDY'S HURRICANE, *subs. phr.* (nautical).—No wind at all; a 'breeze up and down the mast.'

PADDY-WACK (PADDY, or PADDY'S WATCH), *subs. phr.* (common).—See quot

1886. *Notes and Queries*, 7th S., i. 478. Before the tax on almanacs . . . a class of printers [sold] an almanack unstamped, and this was often called PADDY'S WATCH. They were hawked about, . . . sold at 3d., and often for less, when a stamped almanac cost 1s. 9d. or 2s. I have often heard . . . 'Have you an almanac?' and the answer has been, 'We have a PADDY.'

2. See PADDY, *subs.* 1 and 2.

PADDYWESTER, *subs.* (nautical).—See quot.

1892. PERRY, *Voyage of Boadicea* [*Boy's Own Paper*, 28 May, 649]. PADDY WESTERS . . . Incompetent, worthless, or destitute sailors or landmen masquerading as seamen.

PADLOCK. See PLEASURE-BOAT.

PAD-NAG. See PAD, *subs.* sense 2.

PADRE, *subs.* (services).—A clergyman: see DEVIL-DODGER. [From the Portuguese].

1888. *Chamb. Journal*, 14 Jan., 18. The chaplain, who on board ship is known by a thousand more or less irreverent names—PADRE, sky-pilot, etc.

PAFF, *intj.* (colloquial).—An interjection of contempt; bosh! Hence PIFF-PAFF=jargon.

1851. LONGFELLOW, *Golden Legend*. These beggars . . . lamed and maimed, and fed on chaff, chanting their wonderful PIFF AND PAFF.

1897. *Pall Mall*, 28 Sept., 2, 3. The combatants used their fists only . . . PAF! PAF! one for you, and PAF! PAF! for your opponent.

PAGAN, *subs.* (old).—A prostitute: see BARRACK-HACK and TART.

1659. MASSINGER, *City Madam*, ii. 1. I have had my several PAGANS billeted for my own tooth.

1844. SELEV, *London by Night*, i. 2. I see you are not too proud to shake hands with an old PAL.

1858. MAYHEW, *Paved with Gold*, III. v. Ned and Phil, mutually agreed that their PAL was 'a born genius.'

1871. *Standard*, 26 Dec. Their PALS outside, the gentry who hocus Jack ashore in the east, pick the pockets of Lord Dundreary in the west.

1879. MCCARTHY, *Donna Quixote*, xxxvii. A coward like that couldn't even be true to his PAL.

1882. *Daily Telegraph*, 7 Oct., 6, 1. The witness added that the parties were very good friends; in fact, they were PALS together.

1891. NEWMAN, *Scampering Tricks*, 70. I had an old PAL with me.

1892. CHEVALIER, *The Little Nipper* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 192]. 'E call 'is mother 'Sally,' and 'is father 'good old PALLY,' and 'e only stands about so 'igh, that's all!

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippo*, v. His PALS didn't seem to take notice.

Verb. (common).—1. To make friends with; to chum.

1879. *Autobiography of a Thief*, in *Macmillan's Mag.*, XL. 500. I PALLED in with some older hands at the game.

1892. MILLIKEN, *'Arvy Ballads*, 7. We'll FALL OFF TO PARRY.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippo*, xvii. I PALLED in with a lot more boys, done a bit of gonoffing or anything to get some posh, but it got too hot, all my pals got nicked, and I chucked it.

1898. *Cigarette*, 26 Nov., 13, 1. It's their weddin' day on Toosday: Married fifty year ago. That's a TIDY time to PAL it! More than I could do, I know!

2. (thieves').—See quot.

1851. MAYHEW, *London Lab*, ix. 768. It was difficult to PALL him upon any racket (detect him in any pretence).

PALACE, *subs.* (police).—A police-station.

PALARIE, *verb.* (vagrants').—To talk: cf. PALAVER.

1892. EMERSON, *Signor Lippo*, xvi. Though they offered me lots of money to blow the gaff, I felt afraid to PALARIE a dickey for fear of being trapped. *Ibid.* She knew all the cant, and used to PALARIE thick to the slaveys.

PALATIC, *adj.* (theatrical).—Drunk: see DRINKS and SCREWED.

1885. *The Stage*, 28. Sandy told me he last saw him dreadfully PALATIC.

PALAUER, *subs.* (colloquial Scots').—1. A fussy and ostentatious person: generally OLD PALAUER.

2. (general).—Conversation; discussion: specifically idle talk, flattery, or cajolery: also as *verb.* Hence, PALAUERER = a flatterer. [From Port. *palavra* (=talk)].—GROSE (1785); BEE (1823).

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, xli. None of your PALAUER.

1763. FOOTE, *Mayor of Garratt*, ii. 2. Have a good caution that this Master Mug does not cajole you; He is a damned PALAUERING FELLOW.

1822. DOUGLAS JERROLD, *Black Ey'd Susan*, ii., 2. *Wil.* No PALAUER; tell it to the marines.

1838. BAYLY, *Spitalfields Weaver*. Hang it! he'll see through all that PALAUER the way you say it.

1838. DESMOND, *Stage Struck*, 2. No more of your PALAUER—I'll not be made a Jerry Sneak.

1858. G. ELIOT, *Janet's Repentance*, xxv. I used to think there was a great deal of PALAUER in her, but you may depend upon it there's no pretence.

1864. MISS WETHERELL, *Melbourne House*, v. Come . . . don't PALAUER.

1866. HOWELL's, *Venetian Life*, xxii. There hang their mighty works for ever, high above the reach of any PALAUERER.

1883. PAYN, *Canon's Ward*, xv. You have deceived him long enough with PALAUER, now you'll have to undeceive him with PALAUER.

1884. SMART, *Post to Finish*, 193. Have a PALAUER with your father.

1888. RUNCIMAN, *Chequers*, 107. I liked to hear Jowett PALAUER.

1892. *Illustrated Bits*, 22 Oct. 14, 2. She can't get the comehither over me for all her PALAVER.

Verb. 1. See *subs.* 2.

2. (colloquial Scots').—To fuss.

PALE. TO LEAP THE PALE, *verb.*
phr. (old colloquial).—To break bounds; to exceed.

1593. SHAKESPEARE, *Com. Errors*, ii. 1, 100. But, too unfully deer, he BREAKS THE PALE AND feeds from home.

1609. *The Man in the Moone*, sig. C. 4. If you proceede as you have begune . . . your LEAPING THE PALE will cause you looke pale.

1847. TENNYSON, *Princess*, ii. Deep, indeed, Their debt of thanks to her who first had dared TO LEAP THE rotten PALES of prejudice.

PALEFACE, *subs.* (American colloquial).—A white: in poetry and fiction, as from an Indian dialect.

18[?]. G. H. COLTON, *Tecumseh*, ii. 18. [F]. Then shall the PALEFACE sink to-night.

1826. COOPER, *Last of Mohicans*, xxxiii. The hunting grounds of the Lenape contained vales as pleasant, streams as pure, and flowers as sweet as the heaven of the PALE-FACES.

18[?]. DURFEE, WHATCHER, iv., xxxv. The PALEFACED strangers came.

PALESTINE IN LONDON, *subs. phr.* (old).—See quot. and HOLY LAND.

1821. EGAN, *Real Life*, ii. 165. PALESTINE IN LONDON, or the *Holy Land*, includes that portion of the parish of St. Giles, Bloomsbury, inhabited by the lower Irish.

PALETTE, *subs.* (old).—A hand: see DADDLE.

PALLIARD, *subs.* (Old Cant.).—1. A born beggar; a tramp; primarily a vagabond who lies on straw. [From. Fr. *paillard*].—AWDELEY (1567); COLLES (1724); *New Cant. Dict.* (1725); GROSE (1785); *Lex. Bal.* (1811).

1573. HARMAN, *Caveat* (1814), 26. These PALLIARDS be called also Clapper-dogens, these go with patched clothes, and haue their mortis with them which they cal wines.

1608. DEKKER, *Belman of London*, [GROSART, *Wks.*, iii. 99]. A PALLIARD carries about him (for feare of the worst) a *Certificate* . . . where this Mort and he were married, when all is but forged.

1611. MIDDLETON and DEKKER, *Roaring Girl*, v. 1. And couch till a PALLIARD docked my dell.

1616. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Monsieur Thomas*, ii. 2. No, base PALLIARD, ~~do~~ remember yet.

1687. DRYDEN, *Hind and Panther*, ii. 563. Thieves, panders, PALLIARDS, sins of every sort.

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PALLIARDS, *c.* the Seaventh Rank of the Canting Crew, whose Fathers were Born Beggars, and who themselves follow the Same Trade, with Sham Sores, making a hideous Noise, Pretending grievous Pain, do extort Charity.

1707. SHIRLEY, *Triumph of Wit* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 35]. PALLIARDS all thou didst excel.

1748. DVCHE, *Dict.* A cant name for wretched men and women, who live by begging, thieving—anything but honest industry. The women go with one, or more small children, in a dirty, ragged condition, who cry, as though starved, the women making a doleful tale. Her male companion lies begging in fields, streets, &c., with cleyms or artificial sores, the flesh raw and shocking to the sight; the impostor pretending great pain, deceives the compassionate, charitable, and well-disposed passengers, whom, when opportunity presents, he can recover his limbs to rob, and even murder, if resisted. [Condensed].

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, iii. v. Adjoining him was the PALLIARD, a loathsome tatterdemallion, his dress one heap of rags, and his discoloured skin one mass of artificial leprosy and imposthumes.

2. (old).—A lecher; a WOMANIZER (*q.v.*). Hence PALLIARDISE = fornication; and PALLIARDY = whoredom.

1512-13. DOUGLAS, *Virgil*, Prol. 96. 41. Eschame ye not rehers and blaw on brede Your awin defame? hawand of God na drede, Na yit of hell, prouokand vtheris to syn, Ye that list of your PALYARDRY neuer blyn.

d.1555. LYNDSEY, *Works*, 76. That blind gat sicht, and cruikit gat their feit; The quiblik the PALYARD na way can appreue.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*, sig. a 6 vo. Whose Communication is Atheisme, contention, detraction, or PAILLARDISE.

1604. DIGGES, *Four Parad.*, i. 4. PALLARDIZE, Murder, Treachery, and Treason are their Attendants.

1728. BAILEY, *Eng. Dict.*, s.v. PALLIARDISE, Whoredom, Fornication.

PALLIASSE, *suds.* (common).—A harlot: see TART.

PALM, *verb.* (old).—1. To bribe; TO TIP (*q.v.*): also TO GREASE (ANOINT, or GILD) THE PALM (OR HAND): *cf.* sense. 2. Hence (1) AN ITCHING PALM = a hand ready to receive bribes: *cf.* the old superstition that money is about to be received if the palm itches; and (2) PALM-OIL (GREASE OR SOAP, OR OIL OF PALMS OR ANGELS, *q.v.*) = a bribe, whence also = money: Fr. *huile* and *graisse* (GROSE, 1785); MR. PALMER IS CONCERNED, of a person bribed or bribing (VAUX, 1819). See GREASE.

c.1513. SKELTON [DYCE, *Works* (1843), ii.]. GRESE MY HANDES with gold.

d.1572. KNOX, *Hist. of Reformation*, [Works (1846) i. 102.] Yea, the HANDIS of our Lordis so liberallie were ANOYNTE.

1592. GREENE, *Repentance, etc.* Sig C. My Mother pampered me . . . and secretly helped mee to the OVLE OF ANGELS, that I grew . . . prone to all mischefts.

1607. SHAKESPEARE, *Jul. C.* iv. Let me tell you, Cassius, you . . . Are much condemned to have AN ITCHING PALM.

1623. MASSINGER, *Duke of Milan*, iii. 2. His stripes wash'd off With OIL OF ANGELS.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* [Works (1725) 71]. She conjures, prays, . . . GREASES HIS FIST.

17 [?] [quoted in ASHTON, *Social Life in Reign of Q. Anne*, ii. 220]. He accounts them very honest Tikes, and can with all safety trust his Life in their Hands, for now and then GILDING THEIR PALMS for the good services they do him.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Crib*, 81. OIL OF PALM's the thing, that flowing, Sets the naves and fellows going.

1840. LYTTON, *Paul Clifford*, viii. I dare say you may manage to soften the justice's sentence by a little OIL OF PALMS.

1854. *Punch*, ii. 168. OIL OF PALMS.—*Metaphora vetustissima*. A specific much in vogue for rigid fingers and horny fistiness; though, strange to say, it only serves to augment the itch which so often affects the hand.

1858. *Morning Chronicle*, 10 Feb. It is not an unusual thing in our trade to PALM the police.

1879. DICKENS, *Dict. of London*, s.v. SIGHT-SEEING. The enterprising sight-seer who proceeds on this plan, and who understands the virtues of PALM OIL, is sure to see everything he cares to see.

1898. *Saturday Review*, 3 Sep., 298, 1. It was suggested . . . that one of the reasons for the failure of British diplomacy in China was that we did not rightly appreciate the uses of PALM OIL.

1900. OUIDA, *Massarenes*, 32. I think she'll take us up, William, . . . but she will want a lot of PALM-GREASE.

2. (colloquial).—To conceal in the palm of the hand; to swindle; to misrepresent. Whence PALMING (PALMISTRY or PALMING-RACKET) = trickery (by secreting in the palm of the hand): specifically shop-lifting, the thieves hunting in pairs, one bargaining, the other watching opportunities: see quotes. 1714 and 1755. Also TO PALM OFF = to beguile; TO GAMMON (*q.v.*); PALMER = a trickster: specifically at cards and dice. — DYCHE (1748); VAUX (1819).

1601. BEN JONSON, *Postaster*, v. Well said, this CARRIES PALM with it.

PANCAKE, *subs.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

PAN-CAKE TUESDAY, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—Shrove Tuesday. [By ancient custom pancakes are then eaten.]

PANDY (or PANDIE), *subs.* (schools' and nursery). A stroke from a cane, strap, or tawse on the palm of the hand by way of punishment. Also (Scots) PAUMIE. [From the order in Latin '*Pande palmum*' (or *manum*) = 'Hold out your hand.'] Also as *verb* = to cane or strap.

1832. SCOTT, *Redgauntlet*, i. You taught me . . . to . . . obey the stern order of the *Pande manum*, and endure my pawmies without wincing.

1863. KINGSLEY, *Water-Babies*, 187. And she boxed their ears, and thumped them over the head with rulers, and PANDIED their hands with canes.

PANEL (PARNEL or PERNEL), *subs.* (old).—An immodest woman; a prostitute: see TART.—BAILEY (1728); GROSE (1785).

1362. LANGLAND, *P. Plowman's Vision*, 2313. Til PARNELLS purfille be put in hire hucche. *Ibid.* 2790. Dame PERNELE a priestes fyle.

1560. PILKINGTON, *Works*, 56. But these tender PERNELS must have one gown for the day, another for the night.

1560. BECON, *Prayers* [Parker Soc. *Works*], 267. Pretty PARNEL [= a nickname for a priest's mistress].

PANEL-CRIB (-DEN, or -HOUSE), *subs. phr.* (common).—A brothel specially fitted for robbery. A woman picking up a stranger takes him to a PANEL-HOUSE, known also as a BADGER or TOUCH-CRIB, or a SHAKEDOWN. The room has means of secret ingress—door frames, moveable *panels*, and the backs of wardrobes—swinging noiselessly on oiled

hinges. The woman engages her victim, an accomplice enters the room, rifles his pockets, and retires. Then, coming to the door he knocks, and demands admission. The victim hastily dresses, leaves by another exit, and discovers that the whole thing is a PLANT (*q.v.*). Hence PANEL-GAME and PANEL-DODGE: cf. PANNY. For syns. see NANNY-SHOP.—BARTLETT (1848); FARMER (1888).

1882. McCABE, *New York*, xxx. 187. Many of the street walkers are in the regular employ of the PANEL-HOUSES.

1885. BURTON, *Thousand Nights*, i. 323. The PANEL-DODGE is common throughout the East—a man found in the house of another is helpless.

1899. *Reynolds*, 22 Jan., 8, 3. PANEL Robberies. [Title.]

PANJANDRUM (THE GREAT), *subs. phr.* (common).—A village potentate; a Brummagem magnate. [From Foote's nonsense lines, written to test Macklin's memory: see quot.].

d. 1777. FOOTE [Quarterly Review, xcv. 516-7]. So she went into the garden to cut a cabbage leaf to make an apple pie; and at the same time a great she-bear, coming up the street, pops its head into the shop. "What! no soap?" So he died, and she very imprudently married the barber; and there were present the Picinnies, and the Jobillies, and the Garyulies, and the GRAND PANJANDRUM himself, with the little round button at top, and they all fell to playing the game of catch as catch can, till the gunpowder ran out at the heel of their boots.

1883. H. JAMES, in *Harper's Mag.*, LXXVII. 86. 'Well, no, not exactly a nobleman.' 'Well, some kind of a PANJANDRUM. Hasn't he got one of their titles?'

PANNICKY, *adj.* (colloquial).—Given to panic.

1886. *New Princeton Review*, v. 206. Our national party conventions have come to be PANNICKY bodes.

PANTABLES. TO STAND UPON ONE'S PANTABLES, *verb. phr.* (old colloquial).—To stand upon dignity; to assert one's position. [PANTABLES = pantoufle = slipper].

1580. SAKER, *Narbonus*, II. 99. Hee STANDETH UPON HIS PANTABLES, and regardeth greatly his reputation.

1647. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Faithful Friend*, III. 2. Then comes a page: the saucy jacket-wearer STOOD UPON'S PANTABLES with me, and would in: But, I think I took him down ere I had done with him.

1734. COTTON, *Works*, 85. Is now, forsooth, so proud, what else! And STANDS SO ON HER PANTABLES.

PANTAGRUELIAN, *subs.* (literary).—An artist in life. [From Pantagruel, the title character of Rabelais.]

PANTER, *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. The hart. [Because said (in Psalms) to pant after the fresh water brooks].—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

2. (common).—The heart. Also, in *pl.* = the paps. Fr. *le Saint-ciboire*; *le battant* (= the beater); *la fressure* (= the pluck or fry); *le palpitant*. It. *la salsa* (= sauce).

c. 1725. *Old Song* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 44]. Didst thou know, my dear doxy, but half of the smart Which has seized on my PANTER, since thou didst depart.

PANTS, *subs.* (vulgar).—Short for 'pantaloons.' Also PANTEYS, and (colloquial) PANTALETES [= a school-girl's breeches].

1870. WHITE, *Words and their Uses*, 211. Gent and PANTS—Let these words go together like the things they signify. The one always wears the other.

1847. PORTER, *Big Bear*, 104. If I hadn't a had on PANTALETES I reckon somebody would of knowd whether I gartered above my knees or not.

1848. BURTON, *Waggeries*, 95. I've a colt's revolver in each PANTEY'S pocket.

1851. WENDELL HOLMES, *Poems*, 217. The thing named PANTS in certain documents, A word not made for gentlemen, but gents.

1852. WETHERELL, *Queenie*. Miss Letitia Ann Thornton, a tall grown girl in PANTALETES.

1853. WHYTE MELVILLE, *Digby Grand*, xx. Wonderfully-fitting continuations, PANTS he calls them.

1878. YATES [*World*, 16 Jan.]. Sterry, the pet of PANTALETES, the laureate of frills.

1883. CLEMENS, *Life on Mississippi*, xxxviii. The young ladies, as children, in slippers and scalloped PANTELETES.

PANTILE *subs.* (common).—1. A hat.

2. (schoolboys').—A flat cake covered with jam.

3. (nautical).—A biscuit.

Adj. (old colloquial).—Dis-senting. [See PANTILER.]

1715. CENTLIVRE, *Gotham Election*, sc. II. Mr. Tickup's a good churchman, mark that! He is none of your hellish PANTILE crew.

PANTILER, *subs.* (common).—A Dissenter—minister or layman: see DEVIL-DODGER. Hence PANTILE, *adj.* (g.v.), and PANTILE-SHOP (see quot. 1785).

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. PANTILE-SHOP. A presbyterian, or other dissenting meeting house, frequently covered with pantiles: called also a Cock-pit.

1856. MAYHEW, *World of London*, 249. The officers used to designate the extraordinary religious convicts as PANTILERS.

1863. KNIGHT, *Pass. of a Working Life* (1873), I. 217. This vulgar term of opprobrium for sectaries in the palmy days of 'Church and King' was PANTILERS.

PANTLER, *subs.* (literary: perhaps obsolete).—A butler; a pantry-man.—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

1598. SHAKSPEARE, *2 Henry* ii. 4. A good shallow young fellow; he would have made a good PANTLER, he would have chipped bread well.

1604. SHAKSPEARE, *Winter's Tale*, iv. 4. My old wife . . . was both PANTLER, butler, cook; Both dame and servant; welcom'd all; serv'd all.

1605. *Mis. of Inf. Marr.* (DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), v. 26.) A rogue that hath fed upon me—like pullen from a PANTLER's chippings.

1656. BROME, *Jovial Crew* (DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), x. 338). But I will presently take order with the cook, PANTLER, and butler, for my wonted allowance to the poor.

PANUPETASTON *subs.* (obsolete, University).—A loose overcoat with wide sleeves.

PAP, *subs.* (common).—1. The emoluments of office—salaries, fees, perquisites.

1880. *Nation*, xlviii. 379. At the end of four years, not only should an officer make an accounting and submit to an audit, but should vacate his place, so that somebody else might get some of the PAP he had enjoyed during this period.

2. (thieves').—Paper: specifically paper money, or SOFT (*q.v.*)

1877. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail*. Come on, we have had a lucky touch for half-a-century in PAP.

3. (literary: perhaps obsolete).—(a) A nipple; (b) a breast.

1390. MANDEVILLER, *Travels*, 154. Zif it be a female, thei don away that on PAPPE, with an hote Hiren; and zif it be a Womman of gret Lynage, thei don away the left PAPPE, that thei may the better beren a Scheeld.

1592. SHAKSPEARE, *Mid. Night's Dream*, v. 1. 303. Ay, that left PAP, Where heart doth hop.

1594. LYNDSEY, *Sguyser Meldrum* (E. E. T. S. 945). Hir PAPPIS wer hard, round, and quhyte, Quhome to behald wes greit delyte.

1603. CHAPMAN, *Homer*, 'Iliad,' iv. He strooke him at his breastes right PAPPE, Quite through his shoulder bone.

1612. DRAYTON, *Polyolbion*, i. Nourish'd and bred up at her most plenteous PAP.

4. (American).—Father: POP (*q.v.*)

1892. GUNTER, *Miss Dividends*, iii. Your PAP has had too much railroad and mine on his hands.

5 (old).—Bread sauce.—GROSE (1785).

TO GIVE PAP WITH A HATCHET, *verb. phr.* (old).—To chastise; to do an unkindness, or treat unhandsomely.

1589. NASH, *Pappe with a Hatchet* [Title].

1594. SHAKSPEARE, *2 Henry VI.*, iv. 7. Ye shall have a hempen caudle then, and the PAP [now read *help*] OF A HATCHET.

. . . . *Disc. of Marr.* [*Harl. MS.* (PARK), ii. 171]. He that so old seeks for a nurse so young, shall have PAP WITH A HATCHET for his comfort.

1623. LVLV, *Court Comedy*, Z. 12b. They give us pap with a spoon before we can speake, and when we speake for that wee love, PAP WITH A HATCHET.

MOUTH FULL OF PAP, *phr.* (old).—Still childish. —GROSE (1785).

PAPAW, *subs.* (American). A bush-whacker. [*Century*: with reference to possible subsistence on the fruit].

PAPER, *subs.* (theatrical).—1. Free passes of admission to a place of entertainment; also (collectively) recipients of such passes; also OXFORD CLINK and STATIONERY. Hence, PAPERV=occupied by persons admitted with free tickets; and, as *verb*=to issue free passes. Fr. *une salle de papier*=a house filled with PAPER.

1870. MRS. JOHN WOOD [*Figaro*, 15 July]. I have abolished the free order system from a firm belief that the best sort of PAPER for a theatre is Bank of England notes.

1677. MATHER, *New England* (1864), 197. To make the English believe those base PAPOOSES were of royal Progeny.

1683. ROGER WILLIAMS [BARTLETT]. PAPOOSE . . . among the native Indians of New England, a babe or young child.

1871. DOW, *Sermons* [BARTLETT] Where the Indian squaw hung her young PAPOOSE upon the bough, and left it to squall at the hush-a-by of the blast, the Anglo-Saxon mother now rocks the cradle of her delicate babe.

PAR, *subs.* (old colloquial: now recognised).—1. See quot.

c.1696. B. E. *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PAR, gold and silver at a like Proportion.

2. (colloquial).—An abbreviation of 'paragraph.'

1885. *Sat. Review*, 7 Feb., 163. It is natural that the reporter should want news. PARS are as much his quarry as dynamiters are that of the police.

1891. *Morning Advertiser*, 28 Mar. I cannot give the wording of the PAR, but here is a faithful digest of it.

PARADE, TO BURN THE PARADE, *verb. phr.* (old).—See quot.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. Warning more men for a guard than were necessary, and excusing the supernumeraries for money. . . . A practice formerly winked at in most garrisons, a perquisite to the adjutants and sergeant major; the pretence for it was to purchase coal and candle for the guard, whence it was called BURNING THE PARADE.

PARADER, *subs.* (old).—1. A person of good figure and address employed to walk up and down in front of, or inside a shop; a shop-walker: cf. BARKER. Hence (2) a person or thing that by challenging attention acts as a foil or set-off.

1748. RICHARDSON, *Clarissa*, ii. 3. What think you . . . of rejecting both your men and encouraging my PARADER.

1821. EGAN, *Anec. of Turf*, 179. His fine figure obtained him employment as a PARADER to Richardson.

PARADISE, *subs.* (popular).—1. The gallery of a theatre; THE GODS (*q.v.*). Fr. *le paradis*.

2. (University).—A grove of trees outside St. John's College, Oxford.

3. (venery).—The female *pu-dendum*: cf. THE WAY TO HEAVEN: see MONOSYLLABLE.

d.1638. CAREW, *A Rapture*, 59. So will I ride all the sweets that dwell in thy delicious PARADISE.

1640. HERRICK, *Disc. of a Woman*, 72. This loue-guarded FARRADICE.

c.1697. APHRA BEHN, *Poems* (and ed.), 70. His daring Hand that Altar seiz'd, Where Gods of Love do Sacrifice: That Awful Throne, the PARADISE.

FOOL'S PARADISE, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—A state of fancied security, enjoyment, &c.

1528. ROY, *Rede Me, &c.* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 446]. A FOLIS PARADYSE.

1591. SHAKESPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, ii. 4. If ye should lead her into a FOOL'S PARADISE, as they say, it were a very gross kind of behaviour.

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Ho*, v. 1. Since we ha' brought 'em thus far into a FOOL'S PARADISE, leave 'em in't.

1733. BAILEY, *Erasmus Coll.* (1900), ii. 173. The designing courtier had been for a long time kept in FOOL'S PARADISE.

1806. COTSFORD DICK, *Ways of World*, 20. So she dreamt of a PARADISE (fool so fair!) Whose glories she now is allowed to share.

1898. BRADDON, *Rough Justice*, 22. She had exchanged a wretched wandering Life with her father for a FOOL'S PARADISE at the West End of London.

TO HAVE (OR GET) A PENN'ORTH OF PARADISE, *verb. phr.* (common).—To take drink, esp. gin: see SCREWED.

PARALYSED, *subs.* (common).—Drunk: see DRINKS and SCREWED.

PARALYTIC-FIT (or **-STROKE**), *subs. phr.* (tailors').—A badly fitting garment—that 'fits where it touches.'

PARAM, *subs.* (Old Cant).—Milk: also **YARUM**.—**HARMAN** (1573).

PARCEL, *subs.* (racing).—The day's winnings; a pocket-book.

1898. *Pink 'Un and Pelican*, 227. Here it was that Exile No. 1 made the painful discovery that he'd lost his **PARCEL**. His pocket-book and all it contained had vanished.

1901. *Sporting Times*, 6 Ap., 1, 3. No less than four winners did the wily one back. "My word!" he cried, "I shall have a pretty little **PARCEL** in my kick."

PARCEL-BAWD, *subs. phr.* (old).—One whose employment was partly that of bawd. [**PARCEL**=part: as 'parcel-gilt'=partly gilt.]

1603. *SHAKESPEARE, Meas. for Meas.*, i. 2. A tapster, sir! **PARCEL-BAWD**; one that serves a bad woman.

PARD, *subs.* (chiefly American).—A partner; a **CHUM** (.v.).

1872. *CLEMENS, Roughing It*, ii. He was the bulliest man in the mountains, **PARD**.

1882. *MCCABE, New York*, xxiii. 398. Let's have a shake-down for me and my **PARD**, for the night.

1889. *Mod. Society*, 19 Oct., 1296. We got such a strain, me and my **PARD**, starting the car, that we ought to have been entitled to a lay-off for a week.

PARENTHESIS, *subs.* (printers').—*In pl.* = a pair of bandy legs.

WOODEN PARENTHESIS, *subs. phr.* (old).—A pillory.—**GROSE** (1785).

IRON PARENTHESIS, *subs. phr.* (old).—A prison: see **CAGE** and **STIR**.—**GROSE** (1785).

TO HAVE ONE'S NOSE (or **BOWSPRIT**) **IN PARENTHESIS**, *verb. phr.* (old).—To have it pulled.—**GROSE** (1785). Also see quot.

1823. *BEE, Dict. Twof.*, s.v. **PARENTHESIS** (a)—it is this thing, itself (); and when a man's nose, or any prominent part of him, may get irrevocably between the thing—he is in a bad way: some few novices have died of it.

PARINGS, *subs.* (Old Cant).—Clippings of money.—**B. E.** (c.1696).

PARISH. **HIS STOCKINGS BELONG TO TWO PARISHES**, *phr.* (old).—Odd; mis-paired.—**GROSE** (1785).

PARISH-BULL (-**PRIG**, or **-STALLION**), *subs. phr.* (thieves').—1. A parson: see **DEVIL-DODGER**.—**GROSE** (1785). Also (2) see **MUTTON-MONGER**.

PARISH-LANTERN, *subs. phr.* (old).—The moon; **OLIVER** (*q.v.*); **NOOM** (*q.v.*). Fr. synonyms are *la cafarde* (= the tell-tale); *la cymbale*; *la luisante* (or *luisarde*); *la grosse lentille*; *la moncharde*; *la pâlote*; and *le pair*.

1847. *HALLIWELL, Arch. Words*, s.v.

1887. *J. ASHTON, Eighteenth Cent. Waifs*, 235 note. The link-boy's natural hatred of the **PARISH LANTERN** which would deprive him of his livelihood.

PARISH-SOLDIER, *subs. phr.* (old).—See quot. and **MUDCRUSHER**.

1785. *GROSE, Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. **PARISH SOLDIER**. A jeering name for a militia-man: from substitutes being frequently hired by the Parish.

PARK, *subs.* (common).—1. A prison: see **CAGE** and **STIR**. Also as in quot. 1823.

1823. *BEE, Dict. Twof.*, s.v. **PARK**. . . . The **PARK** is also the rules or privileged circuit round the king's bench or fleet. 'The **PARK** is well stocked,' when many prisoners have obtained the rules.

1847. *HALLIWELL, Arch. Words*, s.v.

2. (common).—A back yard; a strip of town-garden.

PARKER, verb. (tramps').—See quot.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lipso*, xiv. Have you PARKERED to the omer for your letties? *Ibid.* I get no regular PARKERING-ninty. *Ibid.* xx. She had to PARKER letty every darkie, and PARKER for someone to look arter me.

PARKEY (or PARKY), adj. and adv. (tramps').—Cold; uncomfortable: as when sleeping in the open.

1898. *Pink 'Un and Pelican*, 273. 'Morning, William; cold s'morning! remarked the victualler patronisingly. 'It is a bit PARKY,' assented William.

PARK-RAILINGS (or -PALINGS), subs. phr. (common).—1. The teeth: see GRINDERS.—GROSE (1785).

2. (common).—The neck of mutton.

PARLEYVOO, sub. (school).—The conventional school study and use of the French language: hence, as *verb* = to speak French; to talk gibberish.

1837. BARRHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'Bagman's Dog.' Grimacing and what sailors call PARLEYVOOING.

1843. MACAULAY, *St. Dennis and St. George*. He kept six French masters to teach him PARLEYVOO.

d. 1891. LOWELL, *Oracle of the Gold-fishes*. No words to spell, no sums to do, No Nepos and no PARLEYVOO.

PARLIAMENTARY-PRESS, subs. phr. (tailors').—See quot.

1889. *Slang, Jargon, and Cant*, s.v. PARLIAMENTARY PRESS . . . an old custom of claiming any iron, which happens to be in use, for the purpose of opening the collar seam.

PARLOUR (or FRONT PARLOUR, subs. phr. (venery).—The female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. PARLOUR—may be a room as well as some other thing. Mrs. Fubb's FRONT PARLOUR is no part of any building . . . she who is said to let out her PARLOUR and lie backward, cannot be supposed to repose with her face downwards.

OUT OF THE PARLOR INTO THE KITCHEN, *phr.* (old).—From better to worse; 'out of God's blessing into the warm sun.'

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Words*, s.v. *Da baiante a ferrante* . . . OUT OF THE PARLOR INTO THE KITCHEN.

PARLOUR FULL OF RAZORS, subs. phr. (American).—Claret with seltzer or lemonade: see DRINKS.

PARLOUR-JUMPING, subs. phr. (thieves').—Robbing rooms: specifically by window-entry: see JUMP.

1879. *Autobiography of a Thief* [*Macmillan's Mag.* xl. 500.] I palled in with some older hands at the game, who used to take me PARLOUR-JUMPING.

PARNEL See PANEL.

PARNEE (or PAUNEE), subs. (theatrical).—Rain. DOWRY OF PARNEY=plenty of rain. PAWNEE-GAME=water-drinking. [Hindoo *pani*=water: cf. BRANDY-PAWNEE; Gipsy *pane*.]

1851. MAYHEW, *London Lab.*, iii. 149. PARNI is rain [among strolling actors].

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lipso*, xiv. Arter a bit the old man gets him a berth . . . So he sticks to the PAWNEE GAME . . . long enough to learn the graft.

PARROT (or PARROTEER), subs. (colloquial).—A talkative person, esp. one given to mechanical repetition. Whence, as *verb*=to chatter; to repeat mechanically. Also PARROTRY=servile imitation; PARROT-LAWYER=a solicitor obsequious to a client's Yea and Nay.

1612. CHAPMAN, *Widow's Tears*, v. 5. If you PARROT to me long—go to.

1677. T. ADAMS, *Works*, l. 16. They have their bandogs, corrupt solicitors, PARROT LAWYERS that are their properties and mere trunks.

1859. DE QUINCEY, *Style*, iii. Passages of great musical effect . . . vulgarised by too perpetual a PARROTING.

18 [7]. HALL, *False Philol.* 31. The verb experience is, to Mr. White, PARROTING Dean Alford, altogether objectionable.

1873. MILL, *Autobiog.*, 31. Mere PARROTTERS of what they have learnt.

See ALMOND.

PARSLEY, *subs.* (venery). — The pubic hair: see FLEECE. Hence **PARSLEY-BED** = the female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE; TO TAKE A TURN AMONG THE **PARSLEY** = to copulate.

1707. *Old Song* [FARMER, *Merry Songs and Ballads* (1897), 1 S. iii. 131]. It was said, that one Mr. Ed—mond, Did both dig and sow in her **PARSLY-BED**.

1719. WARD, *London Spy*, 1. 36. I am very glad it's no worse; I was never so scar'd since I pop'd out of the **PARSLEY BED**.

1851. *Notes and Queries*, 1, S. vi. 517. I was told that little girls came out of a **PARSLEY-BED**, and little boys from under a gooseberry bush. *Ibid.* 5 S. iii. (1875) 'Babies in Folk-lore.' In England every little girl knows that the male babies come from the **NETTLE-BED**, and the female ones from the **parsley-bed**.

PARSON, *subs.* (old). — A wayside SIGN-POST (*q.v.*). — GROSE (1785).

Verb. (colloquial). — 1. To marry; and (2) to church (after child-delivery). Whence **PARSONED** = married or churched; **MARRIED AND PARSONED** = duly and legally married.

TO KISS THE **PARSON'S WIFE**, *verb. phr.* (old). — To be lucky in horse-flesh. — GROSE (1785).

REMEMBER **PARSON MALLUM!** *intj. phr.* (old). — 'Pray drink about Sir.' — B. E. (1696).

MARYLAND PARSON, *subs. phr.* (American). — A disreputable cleric.

PARSON PALMER, *subs. phr.* (old).

— See quot.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. **PARSON PALMER**. One who stops the circulation of the glass, by preaching over his liquor, as it is said was done by a parson of that name whose cellar was under his pulpit.

PARSON'S BARN, *subs. phr.* (old).

— A barn never so full but there is room for more.

PARSON'S-JOURNEYMAN, *subs. phr.* (common). — A curate. — GROSE (1785).

PARSON'S-NOSE, *subs. phr.* (common). — A chicken's rump: cf. **POPE'S NOSE** and **POPE'S-EYE**: Fr. *le bonnet d'évêque*.

PARSON'S LEMAN. See **TENDER**.

PARSON'S WEEK, *subs. phr.* (clerical). — The period from Monday to Saturday.

1800. PRICE, *Life of H. F. Carey*, i. 144. Get my duty done for a Sunday, so that I may be out a **PARSON'S WEEK**.

PART, *verb.* (colloquial). — To pay; to restore; to give: hence **PARTER** = a paymaster, good or bad. Cf. 'a fool and his money are soon parted' (TUSSEY, 1573, and HOWELL, 1617).

1670. *Old Ballad*, 'Seaman's Adieu.' Some . . . Have **PARTED** with their ready rino.

1880. SIMS, *Three Brass Balls*, xix. The top floor rarely **PARTED** before Monday morning.

1888. RUNCIMAN, *Chequers*, 106. If I could get the mater to **PART**.

1892. *Ally Sloper*, 2 April, 107, 2. 'Hand over the other tenner.' Miss Mudge **PARTED** cheerfully.

1896. FARJEON, *Betray*. John Ford. ham, III. 281. But it was no go; them as gathered round wouldn't **PART**.

PASTE, *subs.* (printers').—Brains. [From 'paste-and-scissors': in sarcasm.]

Verb. (common).—To beat; to thrash: specifically to slap the face right and left. [From bill-sticking]. Hence PASTING = a drubbing.

1851. MAYHEW, *London Lab.*, i. 461. He . . . gave me a regular PASTING.

1882. *Daily Telegraph*, 6 Oct. 2, 2. No matter how he punches her and PASTES her, she won't give in about that.

1887. HENLEY, *Villon's Good Night*. PASTE 'em, and larrup 'em, and lamm! Give Kennedy, and make 'em crawl!

1888. *Sport. Life*, 11 Dec. Set to work in earnest, and, driving his man round the ring, PASTED him in rare style.

1896. CRANE, *Maggie*, iii. I'll PASTE yeh when I ketch yeh!

PASTE-AND-SCISSORS, *subs. phr.* (journalistic).—Extracts; 'padding': as distinguished from original matter.

PASTEBOARD, *subs.* (common).—1. A playing card.

1857. THACKERAY, *Virginians*, xv. The company voted . . . three honours in their hand, and some good court cards, more beautiful than the loveliest scene of nature; . . . hour after hour delightfully spent over the PASTEBOARD.

1896. FARJEON, *Betrayal of John Fordham*, iii. 277. I might 'ave done well among the swells, I'm that neat with the PASTEBOARDS. I can shuffle 'em any way I want, kings at top, aces at bottom, in the middle, anywhere you like.

2. (common).—A visiting card. Also as *verb* (or TO SHOOT, or DROP, ONE'S PASTEBOARD) = to leave a visiting card at a person's house.

1849. THACKERAY, *Pendennis*, xxxvi. We shall only have to leave our PASTEBOARDS.

1861. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, xxv. I shall just leave a PASTEBOARD,

1886. KENNARD, *Brown Habit*, x. I told my missus to drop a card on you to-day. You see . . . we hunting men have not much time for that sort of thing; and PASTEBOARD leaving is quite out of my line.

1891. *Ally Sloper*, 3 Jan. Then his PASTEBOARD he presented—puffed a cigarette, contented.

1897. MITFORD, *Romance Cafe Frontier*, ii. 'Engaged,' said the sharp boy. . . . 'Take that PASTEBOARD in.'

PASTEBOARD-CUSTOMER, *subs. phr.* (trade).—A customer taking long credit.

PASTE-HORN, *subs.* (shoemakers').—The nose: see CONK: hence OLD PASTE-HORN = a large-nosed man.

1856. MAYHEW, *World of London*, 6, note. Upon this principle the mouth has come to be styled the 'tater-trap'; . . . the nose, the PASTE-HORN.

PASTER, *subs.* (common).—In *pl.* = the feet: see CREEPERS. Hence, FULL IN THE PASTERNS = thick-angled.

1700. DRYDEN, *Wife of Bath's Tale*, 32. So straight she walked on her PASTERNS high.

PASTY, *subs.* (common).—A book-binder.

Adj. (colloquial).—Out of sorts; angry; OFF COLOUR (*q.v.*).

1885. *Daily Telegraph*, 25 Aug. A mealy-faced, at least a PASTY-FACED boy.

1891. NEWMAN, *Scampering Tricks*, 2. I feel PASTY, but am better now.

1892. MILLIKEN, *Arny Ballads*, 65. Miss Bonsor went PASTY, and reared.

PAT, *subs.* (common).—An Irishman. Also PATLANDER.

1828. BEE, *Picture of London*, 170. Mild rebuke is little calculated to cool a PATLANDER.

1836. SCOTT, *Tom Cringle*. The officer was a FATLANDER.

Adj. and *adv.* (old: now recognised).—Apt, convenient, suitable; timely; exactly to the purpose.—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

1592. SHAKESPEARE, *Mid. Night's Dream*, v. 1. It will be full FAT as I told you.

1612. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Coxcomb*, iii. 2. This falls out FAT.

1678. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, iii. iii. I thank you, . . . 'tis to my purpose FAT.

1838. *Comic Almanach*, 137. 'Tis a matter, I know, that you're FAT in.

1869. BLACKMORE, *Lorna Doone*, lvii. You are very FAT with my granddaughter's name, young man.

1895. MARRIOTT-WATSON [*New Review*, 16 July]. A . . . brave bold tongue you ply . . . You have it all FAT.

PATCH, *subs.* (old colloquial).—

1. A saucy fellow; a fool. Primarily, the domestic jester. Hence CROSS-PATCH = an ill-natured fool: as in the children's rhyme:—CROSS-PATCH, draw the latch, Sit by the fire and spin.

1579. LVLV, *Emphues, England*, 296. When I heard my Physition so FAT to hit my disease I could not dissemble with him.

1588. *Maryrelate's Epistle* (ARBER), 3. Bridges was a verie PATCH and a dims when he was in Cambridg.

1592. SHAKESPEARE, *Mids. Night's Dream*, iii. 2. A crew of PATCHES . . . That work for bread upon Athenian stalls.

1595. *Menachmi* [HALLIWELL]. Why doating PATCH, didst thou not come with me . . . from the ship?

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*. *Coticome*, a great gull, sot, PATCH, lubbar.

1619. FLETCHER, *Wild Goose Chase*, iv. 2. Call me PATCH and puppy, And beat me if you please.

1633. MASSINGER, *Old Debts*, v. The ideot, the PATCH, the slave, the booby.

1830. SCOTT, *Doom of Devergoil*, ii. 1. Thou art a foolish PATCH.

1840. CUNNINGHAM [Glossarial Index to GIFFORD'S *Massinger*, s.v.]. PATCH was the cant name of a fool kept by Cardinal Wolsey . . . transmitting his appellation to a very numerous body of descendants.

2. (venery).—The female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

NOT A PATCH UPON, *phr.* (common).—Not to compare to.

1861. READE, *Cloister and Hearth*, xxxvii. NOT A PATCH UPON you for looks.

1884. RUSSELL, *Jack's Courtship*, xvii. Is Wellington a PATCH UPON the living splendid generals?

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery under Arms*, xxviii. There isn't a woman here that's a PATCH ON her for looks.

1897. MITFORD, *Romance Cape Frontier*, i. xv. I don't think she's a PATCH ON Miss Brathwaite; but there's something awfully fetching about her.

PATCHEY, *subs.* (theatrical).—The harlequin; SPANGLE-MAKER (*q.v.*)

PATE, *subs.* (old colloquial).—The head: almost always in derision: see CRUMPET.—GROSE (1785).

1604. SHAKESPEARE, *Winter's Tale*, i. 2. Was this taken By any understanding PATE but thine?

1622. FLETCHER, *S^p. Curate*, iii. 4. She gave my PATE a sound knock that it rings yet.

1825. JONES, *True-Bottom'd Boxer* [*Univ. Songst.* ii. 96.] Shaking a flipper, and milling a PATE.

1836. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, i. 54. The thin grey locks of his falling hair Have left his little bald PATE all bare.

PATENT-COAT, *subs. phr.* (obsolete).—See quot.

1857. SNOWDEN, *Mag. Assist.* 446. Inside skirt coat pocket—PATENT COAT.

PATENT-DIGESTER, *subs.* (common).—See quot)

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxxviii. Ben . . . bring out the PATENT DIGESTER. Mr. Benjamin Allen smiled . . . and produced . . . a black bottle half full of brandy.

1864. *Derby Day*, 155. She had finished the PATTEN she had learnt by heart.

1877. *Five Years' Penal Servitude*, ii. 244. Well she could do the French's PATTEN, as she'd been there afore, when she was living on the 'square.'

1880. SIMS, *Three Brass Balls*, xvii. It is thieves' PATTEN, but someone in the crowd understands it well enough and answers him.

1883. *Daily News*, 26 March, 2, 4. A PATTEN song . . . was twice redemanded.

1889. *Answers*, 11 May, 374. Beggars who cannot read are being taught hymns or doleful songs, PATTEN as it is called professionally.

1891. NEWMAN, *Scampering Tricks*, 61. Pay me and I'll PATTEN pretty; but no pay, no PATTEN is my motto.

1897. *Sporting Times*, 13 Mar., 1, 3. She did it in a sort of "it's of no consequence" way that fairly amazed the learned counsel who was PATTENING on her behalf.

2. *Verb.* (common). — 1. See *subs.* 2. (Australian). — To eat.

1833. C. STURT, *Southern Australia*, II, vii. 223. He himself did not PATTEN any of it.

1881. GRANT, *Bush Life*, I. 236. 'You PATTEN potehuni.' 'Yohi,' said John, doubtful . . . how his stomach will agree with the strange meat.

PATTENAN, *subs.* (vagrants'). — See *quots.*

1864. HOTTEN, *Slang Dict.*, s.v. PATTENAN, a gipsy trail, made by throwing down a handful of grass.

1877. BESANT and RICE, *Son of Vulcan*, I. xl. Maybe it's the gipsy's PATTENAN they mean.

PATTEN-COVE. See PATRICO.

PATTEN-CRIB, *subs.* (thieves'). — A lodging-house or inn frequented by thieves; a FLASH-PANNY (*q.v.*).

PAUL. TO GO TO PAUL'S (or WESTMINSTER) FOR A WIFE, *verb. phr.* (old colloquial). — To go whoring: TO MOLROW (*q.v.*). [HALLIWELL: Old St. Paul's was in former times a favorite resort for purposes of business, amusement, lounging, or assignations; bills were fixed up there, servants hired, and a variety of matters performed wholly inconsistent with the sacred nature of the edifice.] Hence PAUL'S-WALKERS = loungers; AS WELL-KNOWN AS PAUL'S = notorious.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, 1 *Henry IV.*, ii. 4. This oily fascal is KNOWN AS WELL AS PAUL'S.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, 2 *Henry IV.*, I. 2, 58. I bought him in PAUL'S, and he'll buy me a horse in Smithfield: an I could get me but a wife in the stews, I were manned, horsed, and wived.

1670. RAY, *Proverbs*, 254. Who goes to Westminster for a wife, to St. PAUL'S for a man, and to Smithfield for a horse, may meet with a whore, a knave, and a jade.

1807. MOSER, *European Magazine*, July. The young gallants . . . used to meet at the central point, St. Paul's; and from this circumstance obtained the appellation of PAUL'S WALKERS, as we now say *Bond Street Loungers*.

See also OLD; PETER; PIGEON.

PAUL PRY, *subs. phr.* (colloquial). — An inquisitive man. [From Poole's comedy.]

1825. POOLE, *Paul Pry* [Title].

1864. SALA, *Quite Alone*, i. I asked him one day who she was, and he called me PAUL PRY.

1901. *Referee*, 7 April, 1. 1. No one except, perhaps, the PAUL PRY's of the press . . . desire to publish what is of private concern only.

PAUNCH, *verb.* (old colloquial). — To eat.

1564. UDAL, *Erasmus*, 382. Now ye see him fed, PAUNCHED as lions are.

1612. *Pass. of Benvenuto* (NARES). If you did but see . . . how negligent he is in my profit, and in what sort he useth to glut and PANCHE himself.

TO JOIN PAUNCHES, *verb. phr.* (venery).—To copulate; TO JOIN GIBLETS (*q.v.*): see GREENS and RIDE.

1656. *Muses Recr.* (HOTTEN), 48. My Father and Mother when first they JOIN'D PAUNCHES.

PAUNCH-GUTS, *subs. phr.* (common).—A fat-bellied man; a JELLY-BELLY (*q.v.*): see FORTY-GUTS.

PAV, *subs.* (London).—The Pavilion Music Hall: *cf.* MET.

PAVED. TO HAVE ONE'S MOUTH PAVED, *verb. phr.* (old).—To be hard of mouth.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversations*, i. How can you drink your Tea so hot? Sure your MOUTH'S PAV'D.

PAVEMENT. See NYMPH.

PAVOR'S-WORKSHOP, *subs. phr.* (old).—The street.—GROSE (1785).

PAW, *subs.* (common).—The hand: see BUNCH OF FIVES and DADDLE. Hence FOREPAW = the hand; HIND-PAW = the foot; PAW-CASES = gloves; and as *verb* = to handle roughly or obscenely.—B. E. (*c.* 1696); DYCHE (1748); GROSE (1785).

1605. CHAPMAN, *All Fools*, ii. I . . . laid these PAWS Close on his shoulders, tumbling him to earth.

d. 1637. JONSON (attributed to) [FARMER, *Merry Songs and Ballads* (1897), iii. 13]. Then with his PAWE . . . hee puld to a pye of a traitor's mumbles.

d. 1701. DRYDEN [*Century*]. Be civil to the wretch imploring And lay your PAWS upon him without roaring.

1753. FOOTE, *Englishman in Paris*, i. How do'st, old buck, hey? Give's thy PAW!

1836. SCOTT, *Cruise of Midge*, 137. He held out him's large PAW.

1840. THACKERAY, *Paris Sketch Book*, 107. The iron squeeze with which he shook my passive PAW.

1848. RUXTON, *Far West*, 164. Ho, Bill! . . . not gone under yet? . . . Give us your PAW.

1891. *Sporting Life*, 3 Ap. In less than a minute he held out his PAW, to the surprise of the company.

PAWN, *verb.* (old).—See quot.

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PAWN. TO PAWN ANYBODY, to steal away and leave him or them to Pay the Reckoning.

PAWNEE. See PARNEY.

PAW-PAW, *adj.* (old).—Naughty. Hence PAW-PAW WORDS = obscene expressions; PAW-PAW TRICKS = (1) masturbation; and (2) (of children, by nurses) = tiresome pranks, etc.—GROSE (1785).

PAX, *subs.* (Winchester College).—An intimate friend. [WRENCH: Possibly the plural of *pack*, which word has an extended use in reference to friendship . . . as *adj.*, *subs.*, and *vb.* . . . This seems a more likely origin than the *Pax* of the Church.]

Intj. (school).—Keep quiet! Hands off! Also HAVE PAX! [WRENCH: Almost the pure Latin use of the word.]

1900. KIPLING, *Stalky & Co.*, 4. 'I'm an ass, Stalky!' he said, guarding the afflicted part. 'PAX, Turkey, I'm an ass.'

PAY, *verb.* (colloquial).—To beat; to punish; to 'serve out'; to 'pitch into': generally with *out*: also TO PAY HOME (or AWAY). Hence PAYMENT = chastisement.—GROSE (1785).

1592. GREENE, *Blacks Bookes Messenger*, in *Works*, xl. 34. Though God suffer the wicked for a time yet hee PAIES HOME at length.

1595. SHAKESPEARE, 3 Hen. VI., i. 4. To such mercy as his ruthless arm, With downright PAYMENT, showed unto my father.

1614. TERENCE in *English* [NARES]. To conclude, be sure you crosse her, PAY HER HOME with the like.

1620. Robin Goodfellow [HALLIWELL]. If they uncasse a cloven and not untye their points, I so PAY their armes that they cannot sometimes untye them, if they would.

d.1631. CAPT. JOHN SMITH, *Works*, l. 140. Defending the children with their naked bodies from the vnmmercifull blowes, that PAY them soundly.

1631. CHETTLE, *Hoffman. Luc.* Well farewell fellow, thou art now PAID HOME For all thy counselling in knavery.

1640. King and poore Northerne Man [HALLIWELL]. They with a foxe tale him soundly did PAY.

1711. *Spectator*, No. 174. Sir Roger . . . thinks he has PAID me OFF, and been very severe upon the merchant.

1748. DVCHE, *Dict.* PAY . . . also to thrash, beat, or whip a boy, i.e., for a fault.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. PAY. I will PAY you as Paul paid the Ephesians, over the face and eyes and all your d—d jaws.

d.1796. BURNS, *Poems*. An' wi' a mickle hazel rung, She made her a weel PAVED daughter.

1849. THACKERAY, *Dr. Birch*. You see if I don't PAY you OUT after school—you sneak you!

1871. MEREDITH, *Harry Richmond*, xlv. Now they had caught me, now they would PAY me, now they would pound me.

1884. RUSSELL, *Jack's Courtship*, xxiv. Were he not so cruelly ill I should say he was being well PAID OUT.

TO PAY AWAY, *verb.* (colloquial).—I. To go on; to proceed: as with a narration or action. 2. See quot. 1785.

1670. EACHARD, *Contempt of Clergy* [ARBER, *Garnet*, vii. 308]. Who . . . think, had they but licence and authority to preach, O how they could PAY it AWAY! and that they can tell the people such strange things, as they never heard before, in all their lives.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. PAY. To PAY AWAY, to fight manfully, also to eat voraciously.

1887. BESANT, *World Went Very Well Then*, xxviii. Ay, ay, my girl; PAY it OUT. I am a sailors' apothecary. I am old and envious. PAY it OUT. I value not thy words—no, not even a rope's yam.

TO PAY WITH A HOOK, *verb. phr.* (Australian thieves).—To steal; cf. HOOK: see PRIG.

1873. STEPHENS, *My Chinese Cook*. . . . You bought them? Ah, I fear me John, You PAID them WITH A HOOK.

COLLOQUIALISMS are:—TO PAY OLD SCORES = to get even; TO PAY ONE IN HIS OWN COIN = to give tit for tat; TO PAY THE LAST DEBT (or THE DEBT OF NATURE) = to die; 'WHAT'S TO PAY?' = 'what's the matter'; TO PAY UP AND LOOK PRETTY (or BIG) = to accept the inevitable with grace. See also DEUCE, DEVIL, FOOTING, FIDLER, NOSE, PEPPERIDGE, PIPER, RENT, SCORES, SHOT, and WHISTLE.

1633. FORD, *'Tis Pity*, iv. 1. I was acquainted with the danger of her disposition; and now have fitted her a just PAYMENT IN HER OWN COIN.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* [*Works* (1725) 74]. *Venus* . . . Like cunning Quean in Smiles array'd her, And in HER OWN COIN thus SHE PAID HER.

1687. PRIOR, *The Mice*. The Sire of these two Babes (poor Creature) PAID HIS LAST DEBT TO HUMAN NATURE.

1804. SALA, *London Up to Date*, 297. The Hon. Plantagenet PAID UP AND LOOKED PRETTY.

P. D., *subs. phr.* (trade).—A mixture used in adulterating pepper. [A contraction of 'pepper-dust.']

P. D. Q., *phr.* (common).—'Pretty damned quick.'

1900. *Free Lance*, 6 Oct., 20, 1. It looked as if I'd be on my uppers if I didn't get something to do P. D. Q.

PEA, *subs.* (common).—The favourite; the choice. [From thimble-rigging; *e.g.*, 'This is the pea I choose.']

1888. *Sport. Life*, 11 Dec. Sweeny forced the fighting, and was still the PEA when 'Time' was called.

1891. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 20 Mar. Well, Albert, now what is the PEA? we asked, hurrying towards the paddock. How much do you want on? he queried. Oh, a fiver is quite enough.

TO PICK (or DO) A SWEET PEA, *verb. phr.* (common).—To urinate; *cf.* TO GATHER VIOLETS, and TO PLUCK A ROSE.

PEACEMAKER, *subs.* (venery).—1. The *penis*: also MATRIMONIAL PEACEMAKER: *see* PRICK.

1796. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue* (3rd ed.), s.v. MATRIMONIAL PEACEMAKER. The sugar stick, or arbor vitae.

2. in *pl.* (military).—The Bedfordshire regiment, formerly The Sixteenth Foot. [From Surinaam in 1804 to Chitral in 1895 the Bedfordshires missed all chances of active service.]

3. (American).—A revolver: *see* MEAT IN THE POT.

PEACH, *subs.* (old).—1. A detective: specifically one employed by omnibus and (formerly) by stage-coach proprietors to check receipts. [*See verb.*]

2. (common).—A girl or young woman of pleasing parts; *cf.* PLUM.

Verb. (once literary: ~~TO~~ *OR* colloquial or slang).—To inform; to betray; TO SPLIT (*q.v.*): ~~TO~~ ROUND ON (*q.v.*). [From 'in-peach.'] Hence PEACHER = ~~an~~ informer.—GROSE (1785).

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. To bust; to blow the gaff; to cast up accounts; to cackle; to castell; to crab; to crack; to clipe; to chirp; to come it; to hedgehog; to dick; to inkle; to leak; to let on; to let out; to lip; to make a song; to nose; to give the office; to put away; to put up: to put a down on; to be rusty; to ruck on; to round on; to scream; to snap; to snatch; to stag; to squeal; to squeak; to split; to tip; to tip the wink; to whiddle; to whittle. [For other synonyms *see* SPLIT.]

c. 1362. *York Plays*, 429. For-thy as wightis that are will thus walke we in were, For PECHYNG als pilgrymes that putte are to pees.

1554. FOX, *Martyrs*. Accusers or PEACHERS of others that were guiltless.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, 1 *Henry IV.*, ii. 2. If I be ta'en, I'll PEACH for this. *Ibid.* *Measure for M.* (1603), iv. 3. Then is there here one master Caper, at the suit of master Three-pile the mercer, for some four suits of peach-colour'd satin, which now PEACHES him a beggar.

1607. *Puritan*, iv. 3. George, look to't; I'll PEACH at Tyburn else.

1607. MIDDLETON, *Phanix*, v. 1. Let me have pardon . . . and I'll PEACH 'em all.

1632. JONSON, *Magnetic Lady*, iv. 2. Go PEACH, and cry yourself a fool.

1639. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *The Bloody Brother*, iii. 2. "You PEACHING rogue, that provided us These neck-laces."

1641. EVELYN, *Diary* [Century], I. I did not amidst all this PEACH my liberty.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, i. i. Make *Mercury* confesse and PEACH Those thieves which he himself did teach.

1713. ARBUTHNOT, *Hist. of John Bull*, III. i. Your Putschinsooker came off, as rogues usually do upon such occasions, by PEACHING his partner.

1731. FIELDING, *Letter Writers*, II. 11. It were good for you to resolve on being an evidence, and save your own neck at the expence of his. *Risy*. Well, sir, if I must PEACH, I must, I think.

1830. LYTTON, *Paul Clifford*, xxxi. You will not PEACH, I suppose! I PEACH! devil a bit!

1839. AINSWORTH, *Jack Sheppard* [1889], 31. He . . . only escaped the gallows by IMPEACHING his accomplices.

1849. KINGSLEY, *Alton Locke*, x. Now . . . NO PEACHING. If any man is scoundrel enough to carry tales, I'll—

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown at Rugby*, I. 8. He . . . used to toady the bullies by offering to fag for them, and PEACHING against the rest of us.

1884. *Sat. Review*, 9 Feb. 178. Known to the police, as likely to PEACH.

1890. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 8 Feb., I. If some fellow was to go and PEACH, how would he prove the case?

1901. *Sporting Times*, 27 Ap., I. 4. A sea-green, incorruptible navvy was offered half a sovereign for his vote, which he accepted. At the same time, he felt that it was an outrage on his honour and integrity, so he PEACHED, and became a valuable witness in the unseating of Mr. Barker.

PEACOCK, *subs.* (old).—1. A gull; and (2) (racing) a horse with action: *cf.* PEACOCK-HORSE = (undertakers') a horse with a showy mane and tail. Hence PEACOCKY = showy; as *verb* = (1) to display (as a peacock its tail), to put on 'war-paint,' or 'side'; and (2—Anglo-Indian)=to make a formal call (*see* *quots.* 1883 and 1893).

1880. SIDNEY, *Arcadia*, I. That love which in haughtie hearts proceeds of a desire onely to pleas, and as it were PEACOCK themselves.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet*, III. 2. And now reigns here A very, very—PAJOCK.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*, s.v. *Zassare*. To play the simple self-conceited gull, to go letting or loytring vp and downe PEACOCKISING and courting of himself.

1869. *Telegraph*, 5 Ap. Speculators . . . were fairly disgusted with the flash PEACOCK, with his bumble foot and 'threadleing' action.

1872. TENNYSON, *Garath and Lynette*. PEACOCKED up with Lancelot's noticing.

1883. *Graphic*, 17 Mar., 286, 3. Another curious custom of Indian hospitality which extended to a late period—not longer than thirty years ago—was that of inviting visitors, or 'callers,' to take beer at eleven o'clock in the forenoon. . . . The quantity of bottled ale which a gentleman of the period out PEACOCKING, as it was called, could put inside him may be calculated when it is said that a visit never extended beyond ten minutes, and he had three hours in which to make the most of his time.

1884. SMART, *Post to Finish*, xvi. Bushranger was pronounced PEACOCKY, a three-cornered brute, and was very generally disliked.

1893. *Life of Sir R. Burton*, I. 136. Few preferred PEACOCKING, which meant robing in white grass clothes and riding . . . to call upon regimental ladies.

1898. *Pink 'Un and Pelican*, 65. In PEACOCKED the little man with the long chain.

PEACOCK-ENGINE, *subs. phr.* (railway).—A locomotive with a separate tender for coals and water.

PEA- (or PEAK-) GOOSE, *subs. phr.* (old).—A silly fellow: a general term of reproach: *see* BUFFLE.—COTGRAVE (1611); B.E. (c.1696).

1570. ASCHAM, *Scholemaster*, 48. If thou be thrall to none of these, Away, good PEAKGOOSE, away, John Cheese.

1606. CHAPMAN, *Mons. d'Olive*, III. Respect's a clowne supple-jointed, courtesie's a very PEAGOOSE.

1622. FLETCHER and MASSINGER, *Prophetess*, IV. 3. 'Tis a fine PEAK-GOOSE.

1653. *U RQUHART, Rabelais*, III. xii.
The phlegmatic PEAGOOSE ASOPUS.

PEAK, *subs.* (old).—1. LACE.—B. E.
(c.1696) ; GROSE (1785).

2. (common).—The nose : *see*
CONK.

PEAK-GOOSE. *See* PEA-GOOSE.

PEAKING, *subs.* (trade).—Remnants
of cloth : *cf.* MAKINGS and CAB-
BAGE.

PEAL, *subs.* (Winchester : obsolete).

—(1) A custom in Commoners of
singing out comments on Præfects
at CLOISTER-TIME (*q.v.*) ; (2)
cheers given on the last three
Sundays of the Half for articles
of dress, &c., connected with
going home, such as "GOMER
HATS" (*q.v.*), PARTY ROLLS
(*q.v.*), &c. ; and (3) Chapel bells
which were divided into PEALS.
[HALLIWELL = a noise or up-
roar : *cf.* M. E. *apel* = an old
term in hunting music consisting
of three long moots.]

c.1840. MANSFIELD, *School Life*, 62.
The Junior in chamber . . . had to keep a
sharp ear on the performance of the
chapel bell, and to call out accordingly,
'first PEAL!' 'second PEAL!' 'bells
down!'

Verb. (old).—To scold.—
GROSE (1785).

PEALER, *subs.* (American).—A very
energetic person ; a RUSTLER
(*q.v.*) ; a HUMMER (*q.v.*).

1869. STOWE, *Old Town Folks*, 117.
She was spoken of with applause under
such titles as 'a staver,' a PEALER, 'a
roarer to work.'

See PEELER.

PEANUT - POLITICS, *subs. phr.*
(American).—Secret tactics. [The
pea-nut buries its pods after
flowering, a process by which
the nuts are ripened.]

1887. *New York Mail*, 27 May.
Governor Hill to-day said what he thought
of Quarantine Commissioner T. C. Platt's
letter, offering to resign his post, if the
Governor would consent not to play
PEANUT POLITICS, and would appoint
Colonel Fred Grant in his stead.

PEAR, *verb.* (thieves').—To draw
supplies from both sides : as from
the police for information, and
from thieves for a warning : *cf.*
PEAR-MAKING = bounty jumping.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v.
PEAR-MAKING. The Cove was fined in
the steel for PEAR MAKING ; the fellow
was imprisoned in the house of correction
for taking bounties from different regi-
ments.

PEA-RIGGER (or PEA-MAN). *See*
THIMBLE-RIGGER.

PEARL. TO MAKE A PEARL ON
THE NAIL, *verb. phr.* (old).—To
drink.—RAY (1767).

PEARLIES, *subs.* (costers').—*In pl.*
= pearl buttons : sewn down the
sides of the trousers.

1886-96. MARSHALL, 'Pomes' from
the Pink 'Um ('Bleary Bill'), 60. Oh!
why are your PEARLIES so bright, bleary
Bill?

1892. *National Observer*, 27 Feb.,
p. 378. Look at my PEARLIES, Kool my
ed of 'air.

1894. CHEVALIER, *The Coster's Se-
renade* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896),
196]. Me in my PEARLIES felt a toff that
day.

1900. *Daily Mail*, 23 Mar., 4, 5.
Had the soldier had as many buttons to
his tunic as the average London coster
has PEARLIES on his holiday inexpress-
sibles, he could speedily have realised a
small fortune.

1901. HENLEY, *Hawthorn and
Lavender*, 78. With PEARLIES and a
barrer and a Jack.

PEAS. AS LIKE AS TWO PEAS,
phr. (common).—As like as may
be.

1765. WALPOLE, *Letters*, 13 Oct. Yes, yes, Madam, I am AS LIKE the Duke de Richelieu AS TWO PEAS; but then they are two old withered grey peas.

PEASE-KILL. TO MAKE A PEASE-KILL, *verb. phr.* (Scots' colloquial).—To squander lavishly: *e.g.* when a man's affairs go wrong and interested persons get the management of his property it is said 'They're makin' a bonny PEASE-KILL o't.' A law-suit is said to be a PEASE-KILL for the lawyers. [JAMIESON.]

PEAS-FIELD. TO GO INTO THE PEAS-FIELD, *verb. phr.* (old).—To fall asleep: *see* BALMY.—RAY (1670).

PEAT, subs. (old).—A delicate person: *esp.* a young girl. Also = (ironically) a spoilt favourite.

1578. *King Lear* [NARES]. To see that proud pert PEAT, our youngest sister.

1593. SHAKESPEARE, *Taming of Shrew*, I. 1. A pretty PEAT! 'tis best Put finger in the eye.

1605. JONSON, CHAPMAN, &c., *Eastward Hoe* [Old Plays (REED), iv. 279. God's my life, you are a PEAT indeed.

1632. MASSINGER, *Maid of Honour*, II. 2. You are a pretty PEAT, indifferent fair too.

PEA-TIME. IN THE LAST OF PEA-TIME (or -PICKING), *phr.* (American colloquial).—In decline of years; 'hard-up'; *passé*. PEA-TIME IS PAST = dead; ruined; gone beyond recall.

1848. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers* . . . There's oller's chaps a-bangin' roun' that can't see PEA-TIME'S PAST.

PEBBLE, subs. (venery).—*In pl.* = the testes: *see* CODS.

MY PEBBLES, *phr.* (old).—A familiar address.

1843. MONCRIEFF, *Scamps of London*, III. 1. Dick, MY PEBBLE. *Ibid.* Now, MY PEBBLES, I'll give you a toast.

PEBBLY-BEACHED, adv. phr. (common).—Without means; STONY-BROKE (*q.v.*); HIGH-AND-DRY (*q.v.*). Hence TO SIGHT (or LAND ON) a PEBBLY BEACH = to be face to face with ruin; TO PEBBLE BEACH = to suck dry, to clean out: *see* DEAD-BROKE.

1836-66. MARSHALL, *Age of Love* ['*Pomes*,' 26]. Yiffier could see himself stranded, for he could SIGHT a PEBBLY BEACH. *Ibid.* (*Beautiful Dreamer*), 65. I was able to see that my beautiful dreamer had PEBBLE-BEACHED me.

1889. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, Jan. One of those mysteries which only those who have been PEBBLY-BEACHED can reveal.

1898. *Pink 'Un and Pelican*, 278. Fleet St. can possibly 'give a bit of weight' to most places as a 'run' for the utterly wagless, rapless, and PEBBLE-BEACHED.

1901. *Referer*, 21 Ap., 9, 2. In the slang of the day a gentleman who is "stony broke" describes himself as PEBBLY BEACH. With a deficit of fifty-three millions to warrant the change, "Hicks Beach" may now be fairly substituted.

PEC, subs. (Eton College: obsolete). Money: *see* RHINO. [From Latin *pecunia*.]

PECCAVI, intj. (colloquial).—An acknowledgment of offence, mistake, or defeat. TO CRY PECCAVI = to confess to wrong-doing or failure. [Latin = 'I have sinned.'] —GROSE (1785).

1578. WHETSTONE, *Promos and Cassandra*, 32.

1611. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Knight of the Burning Pestle*, iv. 1. Make him sing PECCAVI ere I leave him.

PECK (or PEK), subs. (Old Cant).—1. Food of any kind; GRUB (*q.v.*); a meal; a feed: also PECKAGE. Hence RUFF-PECK (*q.v.*) = bacon; GERE-PECK = a turd; PECK AND BOOZE = meat and drink; RUM-PECK (*q.v.*) =

good eating; GRUNTING-PECK = pork; OFF ONE'S PECK = without appetite, 'off one's feed.'—HARMAN (1567); HEAD (1665); B. E. (c. 1696); DYCHE (1748); GROSE (1785).

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Mark-all* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 8]. A GERE PECK in thy gan. *Ibid.* [Hunt. Club Rept. (1874), 40]. PECKAGE meat or *Scroofs* scraps.

1611. MIDDLETON and DEKKER, *Roaring Girl*, v. 1. A gage of ben Rom-bouse . . . Is benar than a Caster, PECK, pennam, lap, or popler.

1621. JONSON, *Metam. Gipsies*. With the convoy, cheats [goods] and PECKAGE, Out of clutch of Harman Beckage.

1641. BROME, *Jovial Crew* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 23]. Here safe in our Skipper let's cly off our PECK.

1706. CENTLIVRE, *Basset Table*. Prologue, Free from poor housekeeping; where PECK is under locks, Free from cold kitchens, and no Christmas-box.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, vii. The PECK and booze are lying about in such lots that it would supply numerous poor families.

1836. SMITH, *The Thieves' Chaunt* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 121]. Oh! GRUNTING PECK in its eating Is a richly soft and savoury thing.

1843. MONCRIEFF, *The Scamps of London*, i. 2. Hurrah!—the PECK. *Ibid.* iii. 1. I don't care how soon after this walk I bite my name in for a PECK.

1884. *Daily Telegraph*, 30 July, 2, 1. A pint of cocoa, five slices of thick bread and butter, and a bloater! Or a fair PECK without the relish—a pint of cocoa or coffee, and as much bread and butter as you can eat, for the same money!

1892. MILLIKEN, *Arny Ballads*, 71. Gives yer the primest of PECKS.

2. See RACING-PECK.

Verb. (Old Cant: now colloquial).—1. To eat.

c. 1536. COPLAND, *Spyttel-hous* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 2]. Thou shalt PEK my jere In thy gan.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Mark-all*, p. 39. (H. Club's Repr. 1874.) PECKE is taken to eate and byte: as the *Buffa peckes me by the stamper*, the dogge bites me by the shinnes.

1665. HEAD, *English Rogue*, i. iv. 36 (1874). The night we spent in Boozing, PECKING rumly.

1703. *Levellers* [Hart. Misc. (PARK), v. 454]. So they all fell heartily to PECKING till they had consumed the whole provision.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, vii. Jerry . . . Complained that he could not PECK as he wished.

1867. DICKENS, *No Thoroughfare*, i. But if you wish to board me and to lodge me, take me. I can PECK as well as most men.

2. (colloquial).—To pitch; to throw.

1856. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, ii. iv. I've been longing for some good honest PECKING this half hour.

PECK-ALLEY, *subs. phr.* (common).—The throat; GUTTER-ALLEY (*q.v.*).

PECKER, *subs.* (common).—1. The appetite. Hence, a GOOD (or RARE) PECKER = a hearty eater. [*Cf.* PECK.]

2. (common).—Courage; spirits; good cheer: *e.g.* KEEP YOUR PECKER UP = 'be of good heart.'

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, i. 114. KEEP UP YOUR PECKER, old fellow . . . and don't be down in the mouth.

1861. *Punch*, xl. 205. The times were bad, and Gladstone looked sad. . . . And puzzled to KEEP UP HIS PECKER.

1866. *London Miscellany*, 3 Mar. 57. You'll be better for something cheering, sir, said he, just to KEEP YOUR PECKER UP.

1869. *Standard*, 31 Aug. When a crew is taking very hard and rapid work, some slight stimulant is absolutely necessary; it KEEPS UP THE PECKER, and gives the digestion a timely fillip.

1877. GILBERT, *The Haughty Actor*. Dispirited because our friend Depressed his moral PECKER.

1880. SIMS, *Zeph*, 86. KEEP YOUR PECKER UP, old-man, and I'll pull you through.

1892. WATSON, *Wags the Waif*, 16. Since that I've been a-trying to KEEP MY PECKER UP and git a honest livin'.

3. (venery).—The *penis*: see PRICK.

PECKHAM. TO HAVE (or SPEND) A HOLIDAY AT PECKHAM, *verb.* *phr.* (old).—To have nothing to eat. GOING TO PECKHAM = going to dinner.—HALLIWELL (1847).

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. PECKHAM . . . 'No PECKHAM for Ben, he's been to Clapham, *i.e.*, is indisposed, in a certain way.

PECKISH, *adj.* (common).—Hungry.—GROSE (1785); BEE (1823). For synonyms see WOLF.

1837. HALIBURTON, *Clockmaker* (1862), 167. I don't care if I stop and breakfast with you for I feel considerably PECKISH this mornin'.

1845. DISRAELI, *Sybil*, vi. iii. When shall I feel PECKISH again?

1847. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, xxix. Seeing these nobs grubbing away has made me PECKISH too.

1860. *Chambers' Journal*, xiii. 212. There's the tea on the hob, brewing like mad. Are you PECKISH?

1887. HENLEY, *Culture in Slums*, 'Rondeau' 1. For lo, old pal, says she, I'm blooming PECKISH.

1894. MOORE, *Esther Waters*, xli. I feel a bit PECKISH, don't you? We might have a bit of lunch here.

PECNOSTER, *subs.* (venery).—The *penis*: see PRICK.

PECULIAR, *subs.* (old).—1. A belonging; and (2) a mistress: see TART.—B. E. (1696); GROSE (1785).

1647-8. HERRICK, *Hesperides*, 'Latt's Portion.' A Holy-cake: Part of which I give to LATT, Part is my PECULIAR.

PECULIAR RIVER (THE), *subs. phr.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

1603. SHAKESPEARE, *Meas. for Meas.*, ii. 1. *Ov.* What's his offence? *Pom.* Groping for trouts in a PECULIAR RIVER. *Ov.* What, is there a maid with child by him?

PECULIAR INSTITUTION, *subs.* (American). — Negro slavery—'the peculiar domestic institution of the Southern States.'

PED, *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. A basket.—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

1579. SPENSER, *Shepheards Calendar*, Nov. A hask in a wicker PED, wherein they use to carry fish.

2. (common).—A professional walker or runner.

1884. *Sat. Review*, 21 June, 810, 1. Running paths, except for the use of professional PEDS, were then unknown.

1888. *Sportsman*, 28 Nov. The six PEDS turned out to fight their way through the roaring and raging wind.

PED-BELLY, *subs.* (provincial).—A fat man or woman; a CORPORATION (*q.v.*). [PED = basket.]

PEDESCRIP, *subs.* (old).—Bruises from kicks.

1659. SHIRLEY, *Hon. and Mammon* [NARES]. I have it all in PEDESCRIP.

PEDESTRIAN DIGITS, *subs. phr.* (schoolboys').—The legs.

PEDLAR'S FRENCH, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. Cant, or the language of thieves and vagabonds; and (2) any unintelligible jargon; also ST. GILES' GREEK (*q.v.*). ['French' and 'Greek' here = 'unintelligible.'].—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Françoise*, 368. 2.v. SPEKE. They speke a PEDLARS FRENCH amongst themselves.

c.1536. COPLAND, *Spyttel-hous* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 2]. And thus they babble . . . I wote not what with their PEDLYNG FRENCH.

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat* (1841). vi. Their language which they terme PED-DELSERS FRENCH or canting.

1595. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*, s.v. *Gergare*, to speake fustian, PED-DELSERS FRENCH, or rogues language, or gibbrish.

1611. MIDDLETON and DEKKER, *Roaring Girl*, v. 1. I'll give a school-master half-a-crown a week, and teach me this PEDLER'S FRENCH.

1622. MASSINGER, *Virgin Martyr*, ii. 1. Why, fellow Angelo, we were speaking in PEDLAR'S FRENCH, I hope.

1640. [SHIRLEY], *Captain Underwit*, [BULLEN, *Old Plays*, ii. 351]. *Gis*. One rime more and you undoe my love for ever. Out upon't! PEDLARS FRENCH is a Christian language to this.

1647. BRAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Faithful Friend*, i. 2. 'Twere fitter Such honest lads as myself had it, that instead Of PEDLAR'S FRENCH gives him plain language for his money.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*. Preface. Its meaning must be perfectly clear and perspicuous to the practised patterer of Romany, or PEDLER'S FRENCH.

PEDLAR'S-NEWS, *subs. phr.* (common).—State news; 'stereo.' Also PIPER'S (MUNG- or TINKER'S) NEWS.

PEDLAR'S-PONY (-HORSE or -PAD), *subs. phr.* (common).—A walking-stick; a PENANG-LAWYER (*q.v.*); a WADDY (*q.v.*).

PEE, *verb.* (chiefly nursery).—To urinate; TO PUMP SHIP (*q.v.*).

1788. PICKEN, *Poems*, 'The Favourite Cat', 47. He never steal't though he was poor, He never PEE'd his master's floor.

PEEL, *verb.* (common).—To undress; to strip.—GROSE (1785). Hence PEELED = naked: see NATURE'S GARB.

1811. MOORE, *Tom Crib*, 13.

1823. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry*, 1. *Tom*. Come Jerry, cast your skin—PEEL—slip into the swell case at once.

1827. CORCORAN, *The Fancy*, Note, 89. Randull's figure is remarkable when PEELED for its statue like beauty.

1827. SCOTT, *Two Drovers*, ii. Robin had not art enough even to PEE before setting to, but fought with his plaid dangling about him.

1830. LYTTON, *Paul Clifford* (1854), 256. You may call me an apple if you will, but I take it, I am not an apple you'd like to see PEELED.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, 'The Double Cross.' They PEELED in style, and bets were making.

1857. HOLMES, *Autocrat of Breakfast Table*, i. What resplendent beauty that must have been which could have authorised Phryne to PEE in the way she did!

1885. *Field*, 4 Ap. I got into bed, and under cover PEELED off, one by one, those pieces of clothing.

1888. *Detroit Free Press*, 20 Oct. She PEELED OFF her wedding dress and boots, . . . and threw them at him.

TO PEE IT, *verb. phr.* (American).—To run at full speed.

TO PEE ONE'S BEST END, *verb. phr.* (venery).—To effect intromission: see GREENS and RIDE.

TO PEE EGGS, *verb. phr.* (common).—To stand on ceremony.

See KEEP.

PEELER, *subs.* (common).—1. A policeman: see BEAK. [First applied to the Royal Irish Constabulary established by Sir Robert Peel, when Irish Secretary (1812-18), and subsequently, for similar reasons (1828-39), to the Metropolitan Police: see quot. 1889 and cf. BOBBY.]

1842-3. *Dublin Monthly Mag.* [Notes and Queries, 7th S. vii. 392]. 'The PEELER and the Goat.' As some Bansha PEELEERS were out wan night On duty and pathrollin, O.

1843. THACKERAY, *Irish Sketch Book*, xiv. Half-a-dozen PEELERS . . . now inhabit Bunratty.

1846. *Punch*, x. 163. And forth three PEELERS rushing Attempt to storm the Pass; Truncheons are thick, but fists are quick, and down they go to grass!

1850. KINGSLEY, *Alton Locke*, xxxv. He's gone for a PEELER and a search warrant to break open the door.

1851. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, i. 22. As regards the police, the hatred of a costermonger to a PEELER is intense.

1857. LAWRENCE, *Guy Livingstone*, iv. Six or seven PEELERS and specials.

1889. *Encyclo. Brit.*, xviii. 453. His [Sir Robert Peel] greatest service to Ireland as secretary was the institution of the regular Irish constabulary, nicknamed after him PEELERS.

1886-96. MARSHALL, *Word of a Policeman* ['*Pomes*,' 73]. The other PEELER had a cut at him as well.

1889. *Daily News*, 24 July, 6, 1. The PEELERS seized it.

1892. NISBET, *Bushranger's Sweet-heart*, 64. When I heard him shout thieves, I thought it was the PEELER, and knew it was time to walk.

1897. *Punch*, 23 Oct., 191, 1. He goes his way escorted by A single mounted PEELER.

2. (pugilistic).—One ready to strip for the combat.

1852. *L'Allegro*; *As Good as a Comedy*, 56. Just you try it, then, with another sort of look in your face, and see if I ain't a PEELER.

3. (American).—A very energetic person; a RIPPER (*g.v.*).

1869. H. B. STOWE, *Oldtown Folks*. She was spoken of with applause as a staver, a PEELER, 'a roarer to work.'

SIR PEELER, *subs. phr.* (old).—A poverty-striking crop.

1557. TUSSEY, *Husbandrie*, xviii. 12. Wheat doth not well, Nor after SIR PEELER he loveth to dwell.

PEEP, *verb.* (colloquial).—1. To speak.

2. (Old Cant).—To sleep.—B. E. (c. 1696).

PEEPER, *subs.* (common).—1. A spy-glass; (2) the eye; and (3), *in pl.* = a pair of spectacles. Hence PAINTED PEEPERS (or PEEPERS IN MOURNING) = black eyes.—B. E. (c. 1696); DYCHER (1748); GROSE (1785).

ENGLISH SYNONYMS. Blinkers; daylights; glaziers; glims; mutton-pies (rhyming); ogles; optics; sees; winkers.

1656. FLETCHER, *Martiall*, i. 51. Thy PEEPERS more than active friends delight.

1707. WARD, *Hudibras Redivivus*, II. iv. 4. No sooner had they fix'd their PEEPERS Upon the lifeless Whipper-Snappers.

1795. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. PEEPER. A spying glass.

1808. JAMIESON, *Dict.*, s.v. PEEPERS . . . a cant term for spectacles.

1818. EGAN, *Boxiana*, II. 43. His PEEPERS were taken measure of for a suit of mourning.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. v. If you have even the good fortune to keep your PEEPERS from being measured for a suit of mourning, you are perhaps . . . in more real danger among the refined heroes.

1822. SCOTT, *Fortunes of Nigel*, xvi. Chalk him across the PEEPERS with your cheery.

1831. ALMAR, *Pedlar's Acre*, II. 3. There's something to open your aged PEEPERS.

1852. JUDSON, *Myst. of New York*, x. You just keep cool, and say nothing, but use your PEEPERS.

1857. THACKERAY, *Virginians*, xvi. Keep on anointing my mistress's dainty PEEPERS with the very strongest ointment, so that my noddle may ever appear lovely to her.

1861. PENNELL, *Puck on Pegasus*, 16. Slave! (I said) base Kitchen-creeper! (said I) I will stop your PEEPER! I will tap your claret.

1864. *Times*, 18 Oct. Which will at least, my gentle friends, open your PEEPERS for the rest of time.

1891. *Lic. Vict. Mirror*, 30 Jan., 7, 3. Jones had one of his PEEPERS . . . ornamented with a fringe of black.

4. (old).—A looking-glass.—
B. E. (c.1696); DYCHE (1748);
GROSE (1785).

SINGLE PEEPER, *subs. phr.*
(common).—A one-eyed man.—
GROSE (1785).

PEEPING. A PEEPING TOM, *subs. phr.* (common).—An inquisitive person; a PAUL PRY (*q.v.*). [From the Coventry legend.]—
GROSE (1785).

PEEP-O'-DAY BOY, *subs. phr.* (old).
—A street roister [Regency].

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. vi.
Jerry and Bobby, . . . With the PEEP-O'-
DAY BOYS, Hunting after wild joys.

PEEPSIES, *subs.* (street performers').
—The pan-pipes.

PEEPY, *adj.* and *adv.* (old).—
Drowsy; sleepy. TO GO TO
PEEPY (or PEEP-) BY = to sleep.
—B. E. (1696); GROSE (1785).

PEERY (or PEEIE), *adj.* (old: now
recognised).—Suspicious; know-
ing; sly; sharp-looking: also as
verb. = to look about suspiciously.
—HEAD (1665); B. E. (c.1696);
GROSE (1785).

1703. WARD, *London Spy*, xi. 259.
Another . . . look'd as PEERY as if he
thought every fresh Man that came in a
Constable.

1751. FIELDING, *Amelia*, II. ix.
You are so shy and PEERY, you would
almost make one suspect there was more
in the matter.

1758. CIBBER, *Refusal*, iii. Are you
PEERY, as the Cant is?

1819. MOORE, *Tom Crib*, 20. Fixing
his eye on the Porpus's snout, Which he
knew that Adonis felt PEERY about.

PEETY, *adj.* and *adv.* (Old Cant).—
Cheerful.—BAILEY (1726).

PEE-WEE, *subs. phr.* (nursery).—
(1) The penis and (2) the female
pubendium. See PRICK and
MONOSYLLABLE. Also as *verb.*
= to urinate. See PEE.

3. (school).—A small marble.

PEG, *subs.* (common).—I. A dram;
a 'drink'; a GO (*q.v.*): specifi-
cally (in India), a 'brandy-and-
soda.' In the 16th century
'peg-tankards' held two quarts,
divided by seven pegs or pins, one
above the other, into eight equal
portions. Hence, TO DRINK TO
PEGS = to drink the draught
marked in a peg tankard; TO
ADD (OR DRIVE) A PEG (OR NAIL)
INTO ONE'S COFFIN = to drink
hard; TO GO A PEG LOWER = to
drink to excess; A PEG TOO LOW
= (1) drunk, and (2) low-spirited;
PEGGER = a persistent drinker, or
NIPSTER (*q.v.*).

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. ii.
To chaff with the flash Mollishers, and in
being home to a PEG in all their various
sprees and rambles.

1871. *Figaro*, 15 Oct. A man who,
in the days of PEG TANKARDS, would
have got on PEG BY PEG, marvellously
rapidly to the state of the 'much-loved
intemperance of the Saxons'—as the old
chronicler, Brady, has it.

1871. SALA [*Belgravia*, April]. En-
sign Plume of the 200th Foot, at present
languishing obscure at 'Gib' and taking
too many PEGS of brandy and soda when
on guard.

1883. *Graphic*, 17 March, 286, 3.
The dispensation of food and liquor,
however, never entered into the calcu-
lations of the Anglo-Indian of the last
generation. Even the shopkeepers used
to think nothing of giving their customers
PEGS.

1884. *World*, 16 April, 18, 2. And
then he took to play and PEGS, and his
naturally excitable disposition did the
rest.

1894. *Illustrated Bits*, 31 Mar., 7, 1.
Come and have a PEG, be cried.

1897. MITTFORD, *Romance Cape Frontier*, II. xv. Better fun than PEGGING OUT with only the sooty-faced niggers prodding away at you.

2. (colloquial).—To be ruined ; QUISBY (*q.v.*)

TO BE PEGGED OUT, *verb.*
phr. (common).—See quot.

1886. *Tit-bits*, 31 July, 252. Being PEGGED OUT (*i.e.* too notorious) in the neighbourhood, he begged by proxy.

ON THE PEG, *phr.* (military).—
1. Under arrest ; ROOSTED (*q.v.*)

2. (military).—Under stoppage of pay ; fined.

TO PUT ON THE PEG, *verb.*
phr. (military).—To pull oneself up (or together) ; to be careful : as of drink, behaviour, etc.

TO PEG UP. See *verb.*, sense 7.

THERE ARE ALWAYS MORE ROUND PEGSTHAN ROUND HOLES, *phr.* (colloquial).—There are always more candidates than places.

OLD PEG, *subs. phr.* (old).—
See quot.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. PEG. OLD PEG, poor hard Suffolk or Yorkshire Cheese.

PEGASUS. TO BREAK PEGASUS'S NECK, *verb. phr.* (old).—To write halting verse.

1728. POPE, *Dunciad*, iii. 161. Some, free from rhyme or reason, rule or check, BREAK Priscian's head, and PEGASUS'S NECK.

PEGGY, *subs.* (common).—A slender poker, disposedly bent at right angles for the purpose of raking the fire : cf. RECTOR and CURATE.

PEG-LEG, *subs. phr.* (common).—
A wooden legged man or woman.

PEGO, *subs.* (venery).—The penis : see PRICK. [Gr. *pege* = a fountain.]—GROSE (1785) ; HALLIWELL (1847).

1709. WARD, *London Spy*, II. 8. PEGO like an upstart Hector . . . Would fain have rul'd as Lord Protector, Inflamm'd by one so like a goddess, I scarce cou'd keep him in my codpiece.

PEG PUFF, *subs. phr.* (Scots').—
An old young woman : cf. OLD EWE DRESSED LAMB-FASHION.

PEGTOPS, *subs.* (obsolete).—*In pl.* = Trousers : very wide at the hips and narrowing down to a tight-fit at the ankles.

1859. FARRAR, *Julian Home*, xx. His . . . tailor . . . produced . . . the cut-away coat, and mauve-coloured PEGTOPS.

1861. KINGSLEY, *Ravenshoe*, lxi. PEGTOPS, and a black bowler hat.

1864. LE FANU, *Uncle Silas*, xlv. Dudley, in a flagrant pair of cross-barred PEGTOPS . . . approaching our refined little party with great strides.

1892. MILLIKEN, *'Arry Ballads*, 24. 'Im with the PEG-TOPS and pipe.

1892. GUNTER, *Miss Dividends*, iii. Trousers that are cut in what was then called the PEG-TOP pattern.

PEG TRANTUM. GONE TO PEG TRANTUM'S, *phr.* (old).—Dead : see HOP THE TWIG. [PEG TRANTUM (provincial) = a wild romping girl.]—GROSE (1785).

PEK. See PECK.

PELICAN STATE, *subs. phr.* (American). — Louisiana. [From its armorial bearings, the bird being common in the State.]

PELL-MELL, *adv.* (old : now recognised).—In confusion ; 'higgledy-piggledy.'—B. E. (c. 1696) ; GROSE (1785). Also as *subs.* and *verb.*

1591. GARRARD, *Art Warre*, 299. That either they may enter **PEBLE MESLE**, or kill some Chiestana, or make such a slaughter of Soldiours.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, l. 3. To come **PELL-MELL** to handy blows.

1664. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1st ed.), 109. Too't they fell, Roaring and Swaggering **PELL MELL**.

c. 1709. *The Female Scuffle* [DURFEE, *Pills to Purge* (1709), iv. 18]. Both **PELL-MELL** fell to't, and made this uproar, With these Compliments, th'art a Baud, th'art a Whore.

bef. 1733. NORTH, *Examen* (1740), l. iii. 48, 151. He falls in **PEBLE-MESLE**.

1764. W. TAVERNIER, *Trav.*, II. 16. They fought hand to hand with their sables, **PEBLE MESLE**.

1767. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy* [*Works* (1839), IX. xxvi. 386.] To attack the point of the advancing counterscarp, and **PELE MELE** with the Dutch, to take the counter-guard.

1837. COOPER, *Europe*, II. 188. The revolution has made a **PELE MELE** in the Salons of Paris.

1850. LYTTON, *Harold*, VII. iii. For some minutes the **PELE MELE** was confused and indistinct.

1865. OUIDA, *Strathmore*, l. iii. They fell **PELE MELE** one on another.

1892. FENNELL, *Stanford Dict.*, s.v. **PELE-MELE**. . . . The form **PEBLE MESLE** is earlier Fr. (Cotg.). Early Anglicised as **PELLE(y) MELLE(y)**.

PELT, *subs.* (old).—1. A hurry : hence TO **PELT** (or GO FULL **PELT**) = to go as hard or as fast as may be.

1843. DICKENS, *Christmas Carol*. The clerk . . . ran home to Camden Town as hard as he could **PELT**.

2. (common).—A rage ; a passion ; a blow : also **PELTER**. As *verb.* = to be violently angry ; **PELTING** (or OUT FOR A **PELTER**) = very angry, passionate.—B. E. (c. 1696) ; GROSE (1785).

1594. SHAKESPEARE, *Lucrece* [M. LONE, *Supp.* l. 554]. Another smother'd seems to **PELT** and swear.

1608. TOPSELL, *Hist. Serpents*, 250. In a **PELTING** chafe she brake all to peaces the wenches imagery worke.

1632. VICARS, *Virgil* [NARES]. Troyes Illioneus brave With a huge stone a deadly **PELT** him gave.

1677. *Wrangling Lovers* [NARES]. That the letter, which put you into such a **PELT**, came from another.

1688. GRUBB, *British Heroes* [PERCY, *Reliques*], line 99. George hit th' dragon such a **PELT**.

1697. *Unnatural Brother*. Which put her ladyship into a horrid **PELT**.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Crib*, 23. A **PELT** in the smellers . . . set it going like fun.

1865. KINGSLEY, *Hillyars and Burtons*, iii. I wasn't really in a **PELTER**.

3. (colloquial).—The skin. 1694-6. DRYDEN, *Virgil*, *Georgic*, iii. 672. A scabby tetter on their **PELTs** will stick.

4. (old).—A miser ; a stingy fellow : also **PELTER**.

1552. HULOET, *Dict.* s.v. A **PELT** or pinchbecke.

1577. KENDALL, *Flowers of Epigrammes*. The veriest **PELTER** pilde maie seme To have experience thus.

1587. GASCOIGNE, *Works* [NARES]. Yea let such **PELTERS** prait, Saint Needam be their speed, We need no text to answer them but this, the Lord hath neede.

5. (old).—Clothes ; sometimes *in pl.* : spec. garments made of 'peltry' = the furs of beasts.

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat* [E. E. T. S. (1869), 76]. Many wyll plucke of their smockes, and laye the same vpon them in stede of their vpper sheete, and all her other **PELTES** and trashe vpon her also.

1585. *Nomenclator* [NARES]. A **PELT**, or garments made of wolves and beares skin, which nobles in old time used to weare.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. For they from sundry men their **PELTES** can pull, Whereby they keepe themselves as warme as wooll.

Verb. 1. See *subs.*, sense 2.

2. (tailors').—To sew thickly.

PELTER, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A heavy shower: hence, a rain of missiles.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'Dead Drummer.' The lightning kept flashing, the rain too kept pouring . . . what I've heard term'd a regular PELTER.

1887. *Religious Herald*, 24 Mar. Presently, another shower came. . . . She shrugged up her shoulders and shut her eyes during the PELTER.

2. (colloquial).—Anything large; a WHOPPER (*q.v.*).

1892. MILLIKEN, *Arvy Ballads*, 70. Down upon Sport, now, a PELTER.

3. (tramps').—A whore-monster; a MUTTON-MONGER (*q.v.*).

4. *See subs.*, senses 2 and 4.

5. (obsolete).—*See quot.*

1827. J. BARRINGTON, *Personal Sketches* (3rd Edition, 1869), i. 274-275. Every family then had a case of hereditary pistols, which descended as an heirloom . . . for the use of their posterity. Our family pistols, denominated PELTERS, were brass.

PELTING, *adj.*—1. *See PELT, subs.*, sense 2.

2. (obs.).—Mean; paltry; contemptible.—B. E. (c. 1696).

1570. ASCHAM, *Scholemaster*, 191. Packing up PELTING matters, such as in London commonly come to the hearing of the masters of Bridewell.

1578. NORTH, *Plutarch*, 458. Hybla being but a PELTING little town. *Ibid.*, 69. My mind in PELTING prose shall never be exprest, But sung in verse heroical, for so I think it best.

1581. LVLV, *Alexander* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1874), ii. 140]. Good drink makes good blood, and shall PELTING words spill it?

1597. SHAKESPEARE, *Richard II.*, ii. 1. This land—Is now leas'd out . . . Like to a tenement or PELTING farm.

1605. SHAKESPEARE, *Lear*, ii. 3. From low farms, Poor, PELTING villages, shepcotes, and mills.

d. 1616. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Bloody Brother*, iii. 2. Your penny-pot poets are such PELTING thieves.

PELTIS-MOLE, *subs. phr.* (Old Scots').—A term of reproach: of women: *cf. PELT, subs.*, sense 4. [That is 'tan-pit.']

15[?]. *Aberdeen Register* [JAMIESON]. Maly Awaill was conwicket . . . for mys-personyng of Bease Goldsmycht, calling her PELTIS HOVL.

PEMPE, *subs.* (Winchester).—An imaginary object in search of which a new comer is sent: *cf. PIGEON'S MILK, STRAP-OIL, THE SQUAD UMBRELLA, &c.* [From *pempe moron proteroy* = 'Send the fool farther.']

PEN, *subs.* (old).—1. A prison; a penitentiary: *see CAGE*.

2. (Scots').—A saucy man with a sharp nose—[JAMIESON].

3. (colonial).—A three-penny piece.

4. (venery).—The female *pu-dendum*: *see MONOSYLLABLE*. [Properly of sows.]

TO HAVE NO INK IN THE PEN, *verb. phr.* (old).—*See quot.*

b. 1547. WEVER, *Lusty Juventus* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1874), ii. 97]. When there is NO MORE INK IN THE PEN⁴, I will make a Shift as well as other men. [* Note by Hazlitt: 'an indelicate figure, which occurs in jest-books and other early literature.']

KNIGHT OF THE PEN, *subs. phr.* (common).—An author or journalist.

1864. *Reader*, 22 Oct., 505. i. The best guard against any such spirit, is that the publisher should be a KNIGHT OF THE PEN himself.

PENANCE-BOARD, *subs. phr.* (old).—The pillory.—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

PEN-AND-INK, *subs. phr.* (rhyming).

—A stink. Also as *verb*.

1892. *Sporting Times*, 29 Oct., 'Rhyme of Rusher,' 6. The air began . . . to PEN-AND-INK.

PENANG-LAWYER, *subs. phr.* (common).—See quot. [Probably a corruption of *Penang liyar*, the wild areca.]

1865. *Chambers's Encyclopadia*, VII. 371. PENANG LAWYERS, the commercial name for the stems of a species of palm imported from Penang for walking sticks. They are small and hard, and have a portion of the root-stock attached, which is left to form the handle.

PENBANK, *subs.* (Old Cant).—A beggar's can.—BAILEY (1728).

PENCIL-FEVER, *subs. phr.* (racing).

—A 'disease' amongst racehorses, generally preceded by MILKING (*q.v.*). When a horse has been MILKED to the utmost, and can no longer, in spite of MARKE-TEERS (*q.v.*), be kept at a short price, his true condition gets known, PENCIL-FEVER sets in, and every layer is anxious to PENCIL his name in his betting-book, *i.e.* lay against him as a SAFE or STIFF-UN (*q.v.*). Also MILK-FEVER and MARKET-FEVER. Whence PENCILLER = a book-maker; also KNIGHT OF THE PENCIL; and PENCILLING FRATERNITY = the world of book-makers.

1885. *Punch*, 7 March, 109. The KNIGHTS OF THE PENCIL, Sir, hold that backers, like pike, are more ravenous in keen weather, and consequently easier to land.

1886-96. MARSHALL, 'Pomes' from the *Pink 'Un* ('The Merry Stumer'), 8. The KNIGHT OF THE PENCIL was wide awake.

1887. *Field*, 31 Dec. The race proved a busy one for the PENCILLERS, the greater part of the runners being backed.

1888. *Sporting Life*, 13 Dec. The defeat of the favourite could not have brought much grist to the mill of the PENCILLERS.

1891. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 20 Mar. Last year some of the shrewdest of the PENCILLING FRATERNITY were had over Theodolite when he won the Champion Hurdle race at Sandown.

PEN-DRIVER, *subs. phr.* (common).

—A clerk or writer: *cf.* QUILL-DRIVER.

1888. *Century*, xxxvii. 580. She . . . looked round on the circle of fresh-faced PEN-DRIVERS for explanation.

PENDULUM, *subs.* (venery).—The *penis*: see PRICK.

PEN-GUN (or PENGUIN), *subs.*

(Scots').—A talkative person: esp. of small stature. TO CRACK LIKE A PEN-GUN = to chatter.

PENINSULAR, *subs.* (old colloquial).

—A veteran of the Peninsular war.

1845. *Quarterly Review*, clxvi. He speaks of the ruffling captain, who was, no doubt, an old PENINSULAR.

PENNIF, *subs.* (back-slang).—A five pound note; a FINNUP (*q.v.*).

1862. *Cornhill Mag.*, vi. 648. It is all in single PENNIPS on the England jug.

PENNILESS BENCH, *subs. phr.* (Old Cant).—Poverty. ON THE PENNILESS BENCH = poverty stricken;

PIERCE PENNILESS = an embodiment of impecuniosity: *cf.* POVERTY CORNER.

1579. LVLV, *Euphues*, D. 3. That everie stoole he sate on was PENNILESS BENCH, that his robes were rags.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. I entred like PIERCE PENNILESS, altogether monyles.

d. 1640. MASSINGER, *City Madam*, iv. 1. Bid him bear up, he shall not Sit long ON PENNILESS BENCH.

PENNY, *subs.* (old).—1. Money in general; OOF (*q.v.*). Hence 'A PRETTY PENNY' = a large sum.

See RHINO.

1362. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman*, xiii. 246. Lo, how FANE purchasede faire places and drede.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Merry Wives*, ii. 2. 1. I will not lend thee a PENNY.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *King John*, v. 2. What PENNY hath Rome borne, what men provided?

1887. *Contemporary Review*, li. 17. Shah Sujah and Shere Ali cost India a PRETTY PENNY.

d.1892. TENNYSON, *Will Waterproof*. That eternal want of FENCE Which vexes public men.

2. (American).—A cent.

[Various colloquial usages obtain: *e.g.* A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS = a call to persons in a BROWN STUDY (*q.v.*); AT FIRST PENNY = at first bid or offer; CLEAN AS A PENNY = (1) very clean, and (2) completely; NOT A PENNY TO BLESS ONESELF WITH = very poor; PENNY or PATERNOSTER = pay or prayers, love or money: *cf.* MONEY OR MARBLES (GASCOIGNE); TO THINK ONE'S PENNY SILVER = to have a good opinion of one's self; TO TURN A HONEST PENNY = to earn money honestly; TO TURN (or GET) A PENNY = to make money, to endeavour to live (DRYDEN); PENNY WISE AND POUND FOOLISH = careful in small matters and extravagant in large ones (GROSE); PENNY PLAIN OR TWO-PENCE COLOURED = said of things varying in quality.]

1510. FOXE, *Acts and Monuments* [Cattley], iv. TO TURN A PENY.

c.1520. *Maid Emlyn* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poet.* iv. 85]. His wyfe made hym so wyse, That he wolde TOURNE A PENY TWYSE, And then he called it a ferthyng.

1546. HEYWOOD, *Proverbs*, s.v. He had NOT ONE PENY TO BLISSE HIM. *Ibid.* A PENY FOR YOUR THOUGHT. *Ibid.* NO PENY NO PATERNOSTER.

1566. GASCOIGNE, *Supposes*, l. 1. Pity nor pension, PENNY NOR PATERNOSTER should never have made nurse once to open her mouth in the cause.

1594. GREENE and LODGE, *Looking Glass for London and England*, 123. Believe me, though she say that she is fairest, I THINK MY PENNY SILVER, by her leave.

1594. GREENE, *Friar Bacon and Friar Bungay* [Century]. How cheer you, sir? A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS.

d.1631. CAPT. JOHN SMITH, *Works*, ii. 219. Her fraught, which she sold AT THE FIRST PENNY.

1641. PEACHAM, *Worth a Penny*, 267. PENNY WISE AND POUND FOOLISH.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PENNY-WHITE. PENNY-WISE AND POUND-FOOLISH, Sparing in a little and Lavish in a great Deal, save at the Spiggot and let it out at the Bung-hole. *Ibid.* TO GET A PENNY, to endeavour to Live. *Ibid.* TO TURN AND WINDE THE PENNY, to make the most of one's Money.

d.1702. DRYDEN, *Works* [Century]. Be sure to TURN THE PENNY.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversations*, i. *Neverout*. . . . Come; a PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS. *Miss*. It is not worth a Farthing; for I was thinking of you.

1740. RICHARDSON, *Pamela*, ii. 56. I am AS CLEAN AS A PENNY, though I say it.

1885. *Daily Telegraph*, 23 Sep. Override any arguments advanced by the supporters of a PENNY-WISE AND POUND-FOOLISH policy.

PENNY-A-LINER, *subs. phr.* (journalists').—A writer of paragraphs at the rate of a penny a line, or some such small sum; a literary hack. *Fr. un écrivain de fer-blanc*. Hence, PENNY-A-LINER-ISM.

1840. THACKERAY, *Paris Sketch Book*, 232. As inflated as a newspaper document, by an unlimited PENNY-A-LINER.

PENNY-POET, *subs. phr.* (old).—A reproach; a gutter rhymester.—KEMP, *Dance to Norwich* (1601).

PENNY-POTS, *subs. phr.* (common).—Pimples on the face of a hard drinker.

PENNY-ROYAL, *adj.* (American).—Poor; common; inferior.

PENNY-STARVER (OR -BUSTER), *subs. phr.* (common).—A penny roll, or bun.

PENNY-WEDDING, *subs. phr.* (Old Scots).—*See* quot. 1897.

1822. SCOTT, *Fortunes of Nigel*, xvii. We'll have a' to pay . . . a sort of PENNY-WEDDING it will prove, where all men contribute to the young folks' maintenance.

1897. BREWER, *Phrase and Fable*, s.v. PENNY-WEDDING. Wedding banquets in Scotland, to which a number of persons were invited, each of whom paid a small sum of money not exceeding a shilling. After defraying the expenses of the feast, the residue went to the newly-married pair, to aid in furnishing their house. Abolished in 1645.

PENNY-WEIGHT, *subs.* (American).—*See* quot.

1890. *Daily Chronicle*, 1 Dec. Wright and two American women . . . had pleaded guilty to . . . stealing . . . jewellery from the shops of jewellers in the City and the West-end. . . . Wright was well known as a PENNY-WEIGHT thief in America, which was explained as a thief who devoted his attention to robberies of this description.

PENNY-WHITE, *adj.* (old).—*See* quot.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PENNY-WHITE, said of her to whom Fortune has been kinder than Nature.

PENNYWORTH (OR PENN'ORTH), *subs.* (colloquial).—One's money's-worth; a right equivalent; what's owing and more: A GOOD PENNY-

WORTH = a royal bargain: *cf.* ROBIN HOOD'S PENNYWORTH; TO CAST PENNYWORTHS = to count the cost.—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

1534. UDALL, *Roister Doister*, iv. vii. 75 [ARBER]. I will haue some PENNY-WORTH, I will not leese [lose] all.

1588. *Margret. Epistle*, 27 [ARBER]. If you deny me this request I will . . . haue my PENNYWORTHS of them for it.

1600. SHAKESPEARE, *Much Ado*, ii. 3. We'll fit the kid fox with a PENNY-WORTH.

1605. CHAPMAN, *All Fools*, ii. I do not doubt, But t'haue my PENNYWORTHS of these rascals one day.

1678. DRYDEN, *Prolog. to Oedipus*, 33. You needs will haue your PENNYWORTHS of the play, And come resolved to damn, because you pay.

1695. LOCKE, *Reas. of Chr.* [Ency.]. The priests sold the better PENNYWORTHS, and therefore had all the custom.

1713. SWIFT, *Journal to Stella*, 25 March, 62. The bishop . . . has bought abundance of pictures, and Dr. Pratt has got him very good PENNYWORTHS.

1717. CIBBER, *Non-Juror*, iv. Col. One would think the villain suspects his footing . . . is but short-lived: he is in such haste to haue his PENNYWORTHS out on't.

1724. DEFOE, *Tour thro' East. Counties*, 21. It is very good farming in the marshes, because the landlords let good PENNYWORTHS.

1748. MONTAGUE [DODSLEY, *Poems*, iii. 287]. Behold this equipage by Mathers wrought, With fifty guineas (a good PEN'ORTH !) bought !

1757. FRANKLIN, *Poor Richard's Almanac*, f. 1758. Many haue been ruined by buying good PENNYWORTHS.

1771. SMOLLETT, *Humph. Clinker* [GIBBINGS (1900), i. 54]. Mistress said, if I didn't go, I should take a dose of bum-taffy; and so remembering how it worked Mrs. Gwyllim a PENN'ORTH, I chose rather, &c.

1860. ELIOT, *Mill on Floss*, iii. vi. My mother gets a good PENN'ORTH in picking feathers an' things.

PENSIONER, *subs.* (venery).—1. A prostitute's bully; **FANCY-MAN** (*q.v.*): see **PETTICOAT**.—**VAUX** (1819).

1887. **A. BARRERE**, *Argot and Slang*, 272. Prostitute's bully, or **PENSIONER**.

2. (University: Cambridge).—One who pays a 'pensio' or rent for rooms in College: at Oxford a **COMMONER** (*q.v.*).

1780. **MANSEL** [**WHIBLEY**, *Cap and Gown*]. At Cambridge Commencements the time When gentlemen come for degrees, And with wild-looking cousins and wives Through a smart mob of **PENSIONERS** squeeze.

PENT (THE), *subs.* (old).—Pentonville prison: see **CAGE**.

1857. *Punch*, 31 Jan., 49. For if Guv'ment wos here, not the Alderman's Bench, Newgit, soon 'ud be bad as **THE PENT**, or 'the Tench.'

PENTHOUSE-NAB, *subs. phr.* (old).—A broad-brimmed hat: see **GOLGOTHA**.—**B. E.** (1696); **GROSE** (1785).

PENWIPER, *subs.* (venery).—1. The female *pudendum*: see **MONOSYLLABLE**.

2. (common).—A handkerchief: see **FOGLE**.

PEOPLE, *subs.* (colloquial).—Any sort of allies or connections—racial, parental, hired, voluntary: with or without the possessive. At Harrow=relations or visitors: 'I've got **PEOPLE** coming down.'

13 [7]. *English Gilds* [E. E. T. S.], 332. Where-thurgh the Kynges lege **PEOPPELL** scholde be disceuyd.

1440. *Generydes* [E. E. T. S.], 1, 1967. And what **PROPYLL** they brought among them three, Myne Auctour seith it is a wonder to see.

1474. **CAXTON**, *Game of the Chesse* [KINGTON-OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 331. Caxton is fond of using **PEPLE** for *homines*; a queen should spring of (from) *honest PEPLE*, p. 27 (ed. Axon); we now often use *my PEOPLE* for *my family*].

1602. **SHAKSPEARE**, *Twelfth Night*, iii. 3. You slew grent number of his **PEOPLE**.

1743. **POCOCKE**, *Description of the East*, i. 33. A stranger . . . being conducted . . . to the Pacha's coffee-room, is civilly entertained by his **PEOPLE** with sweetmeats and coffee.

1790. **BRUCE**, *Source of the Nile*, i. 141. Some of our **PEOPLE** had landed to shoot.

1841. **LEVER**, *Charles O'Malley*, xxxvi. Our **PEOPLE** have not been engaged.

PEPPER, *subs.* and *verb.* (old).—1. Vigorous or persistent action. Thus **PEPPER**, *verb.* = (1) to chastise desperately by word or deed; and (2) to pain or inconvenience or punish: as a pugilist by blows, cannon by shot, or a whore by infection. Whence (3) violent and ardent motion: *e.g.* pelting rain, heavy betting, or (in skipping) when the turn of the rope is increased from a slow pace to **SALT** (*q.v.*), and then to the quickest possible or **PEPPER** (Fr. *du vinaigre*). Derivatives are **PEPPERER** = (1) forcible or rigorous attack, and (2) a hot-tempered, active, or violent person; **PEPPERING**=a fierce attack. As *adj.* (**PEPPERING** or **PEPPERY**) = angry; and **PEPPERED**=badly hurt, or hurt to the death (see **PIPPED**): usually with a hint at pox or clap.

1589. **NASHE**, *Returne of Pasquill*, [Works, i. 97]. *Mar.* It is a common reporte that the faction of *Martinisme* hath mightie freends. *Pas.* Thats a bragge *Marforius*: yet if there be any such . . . I wyll picke out a time to **PEPPER** them.

TO HAVE (OR TAKE) PEPPER
IN THE NOSE, *verb. phr.* (old).—
1. To be testy; to offend quickly;
to get angry. Fr. *la moutarde*
lui monte au nez.

1362. LAGLAND, *Piers Plowman*,
xv. 197. There are ful proude-berthed men
paciente of tonge, And boxome as of
berynge to burgeys and to lordes, And to
pore peple hav PEPPER IN THE NOSE.

d. 1529. SKELTON [DYCE, *Works*, ii. 38].
For drede of the red hat TAKE PEPPER IN
THE NOSE.

1547. HEYWOOD, *Dialogues*, sig. G.
Hee TAKETH PEPPER IN THE NOSE, that I
complayne Vpon his faultes.

1570. ELDERTON, *Lenton Stuffe*
[HALLIWELL]. For every man takes
PEPPER I' THE NOSE For the waggyng of
a strawe.

1578. NORTH, *Plutarch*, 173. Where-
with enraged all (with PEPPER IN THE
NOSE) The proud Megarians came to us, as
to their mortal foes.

1590. TARLETON, *News out of*
Purgatorie [HALLIWELL]. Myles, hear-
ing him name the baker, took straight
PEPPER IN THE NOSE, and, starting up,
threw of his cardinals robes.

1595. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*,
s.v. *Montare su la Bica*, to TAKE
PEPPER IN THE NOSE, to be sore angrie.

1607. MARSTON, *What you Will*,
Induction. He's a chollerick gentleman:
he will TAKE PEPPER IN THE NOSE
instantly.

1611. CHAPMAN, *May-Day*, iii. Be-
cause I entertained this gentleman . . .
he TAKES PEPPER I' THE NOSE.

1639. *Optic Glasse of Humors*
[NARES]. A man is teisty, and anger
wrinkles his nose, such a man TAKES
PEPPER IN THE NOSE.

1653. MIDDLETON and ROWLEY,
Spanish Gipsy [Anc. Dr., iv. 190]. Take
you PEPPER IN YOUR NOSE, you may our
sport.

c. 1662. *Rump Songs* [NARES]. Alas,
what take ye PEPPER IN THE NOSE To
see king Charles his colours worne in
pose?

1670. RAY, *Proverbs* [BOHN (1883),
174]. s.v.

PEPPER-AND-SALT, *adj.* (common).
—Light grey; mingled black and
white: applied to fabrics.

1843. DICKENS, *Chuzzlewit*, xvii.
A short-tailed PEPPER-AND-SALT coat.

1876. ELIOT, *Daniel Deronda*, xlii.
A man in a PEPPER-AND-SALT dress.

PEPPER-BOX, *subs. phr.* (old).—A
revolver.

THE PEPPER-BOXES (OR CAS-
TORS), *subs. phr.* (common).—
Domes or cupolas: specifically
the National Gallery in Trafalgar
Square, but applied to any dome-
shaped building: cf. BOILERS.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xxii.
Think of half a mile of pictures at the
Louvre! Not but that there are a score
under the old PEPPER-BOXES in Trafalgar
Square as fine as the best here.

1887. FRITH, *Autobiog.*, i. 56. What
the students called the PEPPER-BOX,
namely, the centre cupola of the new
National Gallery in Trafalgar Square.

1901. *Daily Telegraph*, 2 Feb. 10, 5.
Godalming's PEPPERBOX is to be pre-
served. This is the local appellation by
which the old market house and former
town hall is known, and the title was
bestowed on it because the shape of the
structure, which stands in the middle of
the main street, is more like that article of
domestic use than anything else.

See PEPPER, *verb.* 3.

PEPPERIDGE. TO PAY THE PEPPERIDGE, *verb. phr.* (provincial).
—To pay one's FOOTING (*q.v.*):
as a schoolboy has to PEPPERIDGE
his mates when he puts on a new
suit of clothes.

PEPPER'S DRAGOONS, *subs. phr.*
(military).—The Eighth Hussars.

PEPST, *adj.* (old).—Drunk: see
DRINKS and SCREWED.

1577. KENDALL, *Flowers of Epi-*
grammes [NARES]. Thou drunken faindest
thyselt of late; Thou three daies after
aslept: How wilt thou slepe with drinke in
deede, When thou art thoroughly PEPST?

PERAMBULATOR, *subs.* (streets').—
See quot.

1870. HAZLEWOOD and WILLIAMS,
Leave it to Me, l. Joe's a PERAMBULA-
TOR; . . . a perambulating greengrocer,
called by vulgar people a costermonger.

PERCH, *subs.* (colloquial).—A high
seat; a resting place.

TO DROP (HOP OR FALL) OFF
(OR TIP OVER) THE PERCH, *verb.*
phr. (common).—To die: see
HOP THE TWIG. Also TO PERCH.

1594. NASHE, *New Traveller* [GRO-
SART, *Works*, v. 41]. It was inough [in
the time of the 'sweating sickness'] if a
fat man did but trusse his points, to TURN
him OVER THE PERCH.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, III. Prol.
Through negligence, or want of ordinary
sustenance, they both TIFT OVER THE
PERCH.

1748. RICHARDSON, *Clarissa*, vi.
350. Her late husband . . . TIFT OFF
THE PERCH in it, neither knowing how to
yield, nor knowing how to conquer.

1821. SCOTT, *Pirate*, xl. He . . .
expired without a groan. I always thought
him a d—d fool . . . but never such a
consummate idiot as to HOP THE PERCH so
sillily.

1886. *Sporting Times*, 3 Aug. 1, 3.
Well, s'pose I PERCHED first? Well,
replied Pitcher, I should just come in
where you were lying in the cold-meat box,
and I should whisper in your ear, etc.

TO KNOCK OFF THE PERCH,
verb. phr. (common).—To upset;
to defeat: TO DO FOR (*q.v.*).

PERCHER, *subs.* (Winchester Col-
lege).—A Latin cross laid hori-
zontally against the name of an
absentee on any roll.

PERFECT-LADY, *subs. phr.* (com-
mon).—A prostitute: see TART.

PERFECTLY DEMMY, *adj.* (American
cadet).—Stylishly dressed.

PERFORATE, *verb.* (venery).—1. To
take a maidenhead: see GREENS
and RIDE.

PERFORM, *verb.* (colloquial).—1. To
carry out a design: generally a
dishonest one; to play; to work.
TO PERFORM ON A FLAT = to
cozen a fool.

2. (venery).—To copulate: see
GREENS and RIDE. Hence, PER-
FORMER = a whoremonger.

PERGER. See PURGER.

PERICRANIUM (or PERICRANE), *subs.*
(old: now recognised).—The
head or skull. [Properly the
lining membrane of the bones of
the skull.].—B. E. (*c.* 1696).

1690. DUFFEY, *Collins's Walk*, i.
Attempt to storm thy PERICRANE.

PERIODICITY-RAG, *subs. phr.* (com-
mon).—The menstrual cloth; THE
FLAG (*q.v.*).

PERISHED, *adj.* (colloquial).—
Starved with cold: hence, col-
lapsed, as from fear or pain.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery under
Arms*, xli. Says Aileen, looking regularly
PERISHED, You don't mean to say they've
taken him?

PERISHER, *subs.* (common).—1. A
short-tailed coat; a jacket: also
BUM- (or ARSE-) PERISHER.

2. (common).—A consumma-
tion; an extreme.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery under
Arms*, xli. Then he most times went in
an awful PERISHER—took a month to it,
and was never sober day or night the
whole time.

1890. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 7 Nov. He
went in a PERISHER last night, laying
against Sir Tatton Sykes for the Derby
with a half-a-dozen thousand pound notes
in his hands, all of which he will lose.

PERIWINKLE (or **PERRIWINKLE**), *subs.* (old).—1. A wig. [A corruption of periwig]. Fr. *une panoufle, un gazon*, and (thieves') *un boubane*.—B. E. (1696).

2. (venery).—The female *pu-dendum*: see **MONOSYLLABLE**.

PERKS, *subs.* (vulgar).—Perquisites.

1887. *Fun*, 30 March, 138. The PERKS, etc., attached to this useful office are not what they were in the 'good old times.'

1889. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 27 Sep., 2, 2. How incorrigible the City Corporation is, to be sure, in a matter of its PERKS.

1890. TRAILL, *Saturday Songs*, 68. The position ain't high, and the PERKS isn't weighty.

1897. *Sporting Times*, 13 Mar., 1, 2. She's of value in a thousand ways, she never looks for PERKS, Even when she takes a holiday she stops at home and works.

TO PERK UP, *verb. phr.* (old colloquial).—1. To plume oneself; to adorn.

1601. SHAKESPEARE, *Henry VIII.*, ii. 3. 'Tis better to be lowly born . . . Than to be PERKED up in a glistering grief, And wear a golden sorrow.

2. (colloquial).—To recover from sickness.—B. E. (c.1696).

BOARD OF PERKS, *subs. phr.* (common).—Board of Works.

1889. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 27 Sep. Provincial BOARDS OF PERKS. [Title.]

PERKIN, *subs.* (old).—1. Weak cider or perry.—GROSE (1785).

2. (obsolete).—Beer. [From Barclay, Perkin & Co.]

PERKING, *subs.* (old).—See quot. c.1696: as *adj.* = peering; inquisitive.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PERKING, the late D of M. Also any pert, forward, silly Fellow.

1835. DICKENS, *Sketches by Bos*, iv. He is a tall, thin, bony man with . . . little restless, PERKING eyes.

PERNEL. See **PANEL**.

PERNICATED, *adj.* (American).—Swaggering; full of **SIDE** (*q.v.*).

PERNICKITY (or **PERNICKETTY**), *adj.* (Scots').—Fastidious; over-particular.—JAMIESON.

1886. *Pop. Sci. Monthly*, xxvi. 52. This I say for the benefit of those who otherwise might not understand what **PERNICKITY** creatures astronomers are.

1888. *Harper's Mag.*, Eng. ed. viii. 875. Any white man . . . grows lame and impatient at such confining and **PERNICKETTY** work.

PERPENDICULAR, *subs.* (common).

—1. A stand-up lunch; an evening party where the majority of the guests stand; an upright position.

1888. *Sporting Life*, 10 Dec. He soon resumed the **PERPENDICULAR**, and went for his antagonist, who evaded him easily.

1882. EDNA LYALL, *Donovan*, ix. I duly attended my mother to three fashionable crowds, **PERPENDICULARS** is the best name for them, for there is seldom more than standing room.

2. (venery).—Coition taken standing: cf. **HORIZONTAL**. Also **UPRIGHT** and **KNEE-TREMBLER**.

PERSIMMON, *subs.* (American colloquial).—[A species of wild plum; in America as common, south of latitude 42°, as is the blackberry in England. Its fruit and hard wood are much esteemed. The huckleberry is akin to the whortleberry.] Among popular phrases are: **TO RAKE UP THE PERSIMMONS** = to pocket the stakes or spoils, **TO RAKE** (or **PULL**) **IN THE PIECES** (*q.v.*); **THE LONGEST**

1634. MILTON, *Comus* [Aldine], 721. Should in a PET of temperance feed.

1685. SIR P. HUME, *Narrative*, 42. As we were to goe, several gentlemen inclined to have gone with us, but the Erle PETTING at it, forbore and stayed there.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 109. They may take themselves off in a PET sometimes, the itch of writing brings them back again.

1766. BROOKE, *Fool of Quality*, 1. 193. I would have sent to enquire after them, but I was PETTED at their neglect of us during our long illness.

2. (old : now recognised).—A darling : also in sarcasm. [In quot. 1607 = a delicate young thing.] Also PEAT. Whence, as *verb.* = to fondle.

d. 1529. DUNBAR [KINGTON-OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 361-3. Dunbar wrote . . . in Northern English . . . There are the Celtic words tartan . . . PET (darling) . . . tedder (tether), brat].

1562-77. GASCOIGN [CHALMERS, *Eng. Poets*, ii. 485.] I grooped in thy pocket pretty PEATE, And found a Lemman which I looked not.

1578. *King Lear* [NARES]. To see that proud pert PEAT, our youngest sister.

1581. RICHE, *Farewell to Mil. Prof.* [Shakspeare Soc., 63]. Have you founde your tongue, now pretie PEATE? then wee most have an almon for parrat. How durst thou, strompette, chalenge me to bee thy father.

1593. SHAKSPEARE, *Taming of Shrew*, l. 1. A pretty PEAT! 'tis best Put finger in the eye.

1605. JONSON, CHAPMAN, &c., *Eastward Hoe* [Old Plays (REED), iv. 279.] God's my life, you are a PEAT indeed.

1607. DEKKER and WEBSTER, *Westward Hoe*, ii. 2. *Mon.* She's not troubled with the green sickness still, is she? *Bird.* The yellow jaundice . . . Troth she's as good a PEAT!

1629. BOYD, *Last Battell*, 324. Grosse euill thoughts fedde and PETTED with yeelding and consent.

d. 1631. DONNE, *Poems*, 90. The wench a pretty PEAT, And (by her eye) well fitting for the seat.

1632. MASSINGER, *Maid of Honour*, ii. 2. You are a pretty PEAT, indifferent fair too.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE (1866), 168]. I was her PET, and came in for the caresses of all the men that frequented the house.

PETARD. HOIST WITH A PETARD (or PETAR), *phr.* (old).—Caught in one's own trap; involved in danger meant for others.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Hamlet*, iii. 4. 207. For 'tis the sport to have the engineer HOIST WITH HIS OWN PETAR.

PETE JENKINS, *subs. phr.* (circus).—An auxilliary clown. [The original Pete Jenkins (c. 1855) had a line of BUSINESS (*q.v.*): he planted 'rustics' in the audience, and played them thence.

PETER, *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. A portmanteau, box, trunk, bag, or purse : generic for any parcel, bundle, or package, large or small. Whence PETER-BITER (-CLAIMER, or -MAN) = a carriage thief (*see* DRAG); PETER-DRAG (-HUNTING, or -LAY) = robbery from vehicles of all kinds; PETER-HUNTING JEMMY = a small crow-bar used in smashing the chains securing luggage to a vehicle.—GROSE (1785); VAUX (1819); BEE (1823).

1724. HARPER, *Frisky Moll's Song* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 41]. To you of the PETER LAY.

1728. *Street Robberies Consider'd*, 'Glossary,' s.v. PETER.

1752. SMOLLETT, *Faithful Narrative* [HENLEY, *Works* (1901), xii. 184]. For snabbling his PETER and queer Joseph.

1830. LYTTON, *Paul Clifford*, x. If so be as your name's Paul, may you always rob PETER [a portmanteau] in order to pay Paul.

1863. *Story of a Lancashire Thief*, 9. Sometimes he'd turn PETERMAN, and he had been generally lucky at it.

1870. HORSLEY, in *Macmillan's Mag.*, Oct. While I was looking about I piped a little PETER (parcel). *Ibid.* After we left the course we . . . got a PETER (cash-box) with very near a century of quids in it.

2. (Australian prison).—A punishment cell: *see* BOX.

3. (poachers').—A partridge.

4. (venery).—The *penis*: also ST. PETER (*q.v.*): *see* PRICK.

5. *Intj.* (old).—An oath: *cf.* MARY!

6. *See* PETER-SEE-ME.

7. (old gaming).—*See* quot.

1762. WILSON, *The Cheats*, iv. 1. Did not I . . . teach you . . . the use of up-hills, down-hills, and PETERS.*

(* Note. Terms applicable to false or loaded dice, or to the knavish mode of handling them.)

Verb. (gaming).—1. To call (in whist) for trumps by discarding an unnecessarily high card: *see* BLUE-PETER.

1887. *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. iv. 356. The Blue Peter . . . is always used when a ship is about to start. . . . Calling for trumps, or PETERING, is derived from this source.

2. (old).—To cease word or deed; TO STOW IT (*q.v.*).—VAUX (1819).

3. (auctioneers').—To run up prices: *see* PETER FUNK.

TO PETER OUT, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To fail; to become exhausted.

1876. *Boston Post*, 5 May. The speculator recommended a gentleman . . . to sell out at any sacrifice, as the mines were PETERED OUT.

1877. *New York Tribune*, 28 Feb. The influence of the Hon. —, formerly a Democratic politician of some prominence, seems to have quite PETERED OUT.

1888. *Missouri Republican*, 15 Feb. The *Boston Herald* thinks the Hill boom is PETERING OUT.

1893. BRET HARTE, *Dow's Flat*. Then the bar PETERED OUT, And the boys wouldn't stay.

1899. *M. A. P.*, 8 Ap., 315, 2. In 1869 rumours went abroad that the Comstock mines were PETERING OUT.

TO GO (OR PASS) THROUGH ST. PETER'S NEEDLE, *verb. phr.* (old).—To be severely disciplined: of children.

TO ROB (OR BORROW FROM) PETER TO PAY (OR CLOTHE) PAUL, *verb. phr.* (old).—To take of one to give to another; TO MANŒUVRE THE APOSTLES (*q.v.*).—GROSE (1785). [John Thirlby, the first and only bishop of Westminster (1541-50), 'having wasted the patrimony allotted by the King (Hen. VIII.) for the support of the see was translated to Norwich, and with him ended the bishopric of Westminster.'—HAYDN, *Dignities*: *see* quot. 1661.]

1548. BARCLAY, *Eclogues* [Percy Soc., xxii. p. xvii.] They ROBBE ST. PETER TO CLOTH ST. PAUL.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, III. iii. You may make a shift by BORROWING FROM PETER TO PAY PAUL ['*facies versure*' = Lat. *versurum facere*], and with other folks earth fill up his ditch.

1661. HEYLIN, *Hist. Ref. Ch. Eng.*, i. 256. The lands of Westminster so delapidated by Bishop Thirlby that there was almost nothing to support the dignity . . . Most of the lands invaded by the great men of the Court, the rest laid out for reparation to the Church of St. Paul, pared almost to the very quick in those days of rapine. From hence came first that significant byword (as is said by some) of ROBBING PETER TO PAY PAUL.

PETER COLLINS (theatrical).—*See* quot.

1889. J. C. COLEMAN [S. J. & C., s.v. PETER COLLINS.] A gentleman never to be found . . . [on whom] young aspirants . . . are told to call. . . . The youth is sent from roof to cellar, and, finally, is generally let down a trap and left to get out as best he can. The password at circuses is the "green-handled rake," which the youth is requested to ask for. He is generally settled with a pill of horse-dung when they have had enough of him.

PETER FUNK, *subs. phr.* (American).—1. A decoy at a mock auction; also, at genuine but petty sales, a runner-up of prices; a PUFFER (*q.v.*). Hence (2) the personification of petty deceit and humbug.

PETER-GRIEVOUS, *subs. phr.* (common).—A fretful child.

PETER-GUNNER, *subs. phr.* (old).—An amateur gun; a PLASTERER (*q.v.*).—GROSE (1785).

1614. *The Cold Year* [NARES]. It was a shame that poore harmlesse birds could not be suffered to save themselves under a bush . . . but that every paltrie PETER-GUNNER must shoote fire and brimstone at them.

1633. SHIRLEY, *Witty Fair One*, ii. 2. I smell powder . . . this PETER-GUNNER should have given fire.

PETER LUG, *subs. phr.* (old).—A laggard in drinking.—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

PETER-MAN, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. A fisherman: specifically 'those who formerly used unlawful engines in catching fish in the river Thames.'—BAILEY (1728). Whence, PETER-BOAT = a fishing-boat: specifically one built sharp, bow and stern, for quick handling. [In allusion to Math. iv. 18.]

1605. MARSTON, JONSON, and CHAPMAN, *Eastward Hoe*, ii. 3. Yet his skin is too thick to make parchment; 'twould make good boots for a PETERMAN to catch salmon in.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, ii. 1. If we have but good draughts in my PETER-BOAT, fresh salmon, you sweet villains, shall be no meat with us.

1657. HOWELL, *Londinop.*, 14. There are a great number of other kind of fishermen—belonging to the Thames, called Hebbmen, PETERMEN, and Trawlermen.

2. (thieves').—See PETER.

PETER-SEE-ME, *subs. phr.* (old).—A Spanish wine. [From Sp. 'Pedra Ximenes,' the famous cardinal.] Also PETER, PETER-SA-MENE, and PETER-SEMIN.

1617. BRATHWAITE, *Vandunk's Four Humours* [PALMER in *Stanford*]. I am phlegmaticke as may be, PETER SEE ME must inure me.

1620. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Chances*, v. 3. By Canary thus I charge thee, By Britain metheglin, and PETER, Appear and answer me in meeter.

1623. MIDDLETON, *Spanish Gypsy*, iii. 1. PETER-SEE-ME shall wash thy noul, And malaga glasses for thee.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works*, sig. 2 Fff 4 r. 1. PETER-SEE-MEA or head strong Charnico.

PETMAN, *subs.* (provincial).—The smallest pig in a litter; a TANTONY-PIG (*q.v.*).

PETRONEL. **SIR PETRONEL FLASH**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A swaggerer; a penniless ruffler; see quot. 1595.

1595. FLORIO, *World of Wordes*, 585. SIR PETRONEL FLASH, a boasteing fellowe, a braggadochio.

1605. JONSON, CHAPMAN, and MARSTON, *Eastward Hoe*, Dram. Pers. SIR PETRONEL FLASH.

[?]. *Brit. Bibl.*, ii. 167. Give your scholler degrees, and your lawyer his fees, And some dice for SIR PETRONELL FLASH.

PETTICOAT, *subs.* (colloquial).—A woman: also as *adj.* Hence, PETTICOAT-AFFAIR = a matter with a woman in it; PETTICOAT-GOVERNMENT = female home-rule; PETTICOAT-HOLD = a life

interest in a wife's estate (GROSE, 1785); PETTICOAT; MERCHANT = a whoremonger (*see* MOLROWER); PETTICOAT-PENSIONER (SQUIRE, or -KNIGHT, or SQUIRE OF THE PETTICOAT) = a male KEEP (*q.v.*); PETTICOAT-HUNTING = whoring; PETTICOAT-LED = infatuated of a woman; PETTICOAT-LOOSE (of women) = 'always ready'; UP ONE'S PETTICOAT = unduly intimate, &c. — B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, v. 1. Where's this wench to be found? here are all the moveable PETTICOATS of the house.

1662. *Rump Songs*, ii. 41. The late PETTICOAT SQUIRE From his shop mounted higher.

1690. DRYDEN, *Amphitryon*, i. 1. Venus may know more than both of us, For 'tis some PETTICOAT AFFAIR.

1690. WILSON, *Belphegor*, iv. 2. Thou shalt supply my place—all PETTICOATS are sisters in the dark.

c. 1707. *Old Song*, 'The Irish Jigg' [FARMER, *Merry Songs and Ballads* (1897), iv. 181]. In short I found it was one of the PETTICOAT sort . . . And then I went to her, resolving to try her.

1717. PRIOR, *Lucius* [Epilogue]. Fearless the PETTICOAT contemns his Frowns; The Hoop secures whatever it surrounds.

1725. BAILEY, *Coll. Erasmus*, 186. What does this PETTICOAT-PREACHER do here? Get you in and mind your kitchen.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 356. This . . . made me suspect that he was tied to the string of some PETTICOAT in the hamlet.

1766. BROOKE, *Foot of Quality*, i. 199. I am quite impatient to be instructed in the policies and constitution of this your PETTICOAT GOVERNMENT.

1830. BUCKSTONE, *Cabdriver*, i. Do you think the gentlemen are to have all the loaves and fishes? PETTICOATS must be provided for.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, ii. 6. Disarmed—defied by a PETTICOAT . . . What! afraid of a woman?

1849. KINGSLEY, *Alton Locke*, xxvii. Out came the very story which I had all along dreaded, about the expurgation of my poems, with the coarsest allusions to PETTICOAT INFLUENCE.

1897. MITFORD, *Romance of Cape Frontier*, i. i. There was a PETTICOAT in the case.

See SMOCK.

PETTICOAT LANE, *subs. phr.* (common).—Middlesex Street, E.: a well-known rendezvous of old-clothes dealers, mostly Jews. [In Yiddish = PILOMET = the initials (in Hebrew) P. L. Also Dover-street, Piccadilly, the seat of the Court milliner.

1887. *J. D. B.*, 251. 'What do you think?' ejaculated Solomon, falling back on PILOMET for his expletives.

1901. *D. Telegraph*, 9 Nov., 5, 5. The dovescotes of PETTICOAT-LANE, as Dover-street is now called, and its vicinity are fluttered by rumours of a great invasion of London during the Coronation festivities by representatives of French firms.

PETTIFOGGER, *subs.* (old: now recognised).—An attorney of the baser sort: a sharking lawyer. Hence (generally) = one given to mean or underhand practices, and as *verb.* = to conduct business in a sharp or paltry way. Whence derivatives: PETTIFOGGERY, PETTIFOGGING, and PETTIFOGULISE.—GROSE (1785).

1576. FLEMING, *Panopl. Epist.*, 320. As for this PETTIE FOGGER, this false fellowe that is in no credite or countenance.

1577. HARRISON, *Desc. of Eng.* [HOLINSHED'S *Chron.* (Shakspeare Soc.), i. 206]. Brokers betwene the PETTIE FOGGERS of the lawe, and the common people.

1588. M. KYFFIN, *Terence's Andria*, iv. 5. I should be exclaimed vpon to bee a beggerly FOGGER, greedily hunting after heritage.

c. 1600. NORDEN, *Spec. Brit. Cornw.* (1728), 27. The baser sorte . . . verie litigious . . . whereof the FOGGERS and Petie Lawiers . . . gett . . . great advantage.

1604. MARSTON, *Malcontent*, i. 6. *Pas.* You will know me again, Malvole. *Mal.* O ay, by that velvet. *Pas.* Ay, as a PETTIFOGGER by his buckram bag.

1610. WEBSTER, *Devil's Law Case*, iv. 1. *Ari.* Are you her knave. *San.* No, sir, I am a clerk. *Ari.* You whore-son FOGGING rascal.

1618. ROWLEY and MIDDLETON, *Cure for a Cuckold*, Dram. Pers. PETTIFOG, an Attorney.

1627. MINSHEU, *Guide to Tongues*, . . . A PETTIE FOGGER, a sillie advocate or lawyer, rather a trouble-Toune, having neither law nor conscience.

1709. WARD, *London Spy*, i. 191. It may not be improper to conclude our Remarks of this Place with the Character of a PETTIFOGGER (then follows a description of upwards of two pages).

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 138. A plodding PETTIFOGGER's worthless brood might have gorged . . . on the love of a young nobleman . . . like yourself. *Ibid.*, 193. He practised as an attorney at Valencia, and bore his faculties in all the infamy of PETTIFOGGING.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxxi. 'Ah, they're smart fellows; very smart indeed' . . . Messrs. Dodson and FOGG. 'They are great scoundrels,' said Mr. Pickwick.

1886. OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 596. PETTIE FOGGER of the law; this strange word is the Dutch *fokker*, a monopolist.

PETTY, *subs.* (old).—A scholar low in the school.

1692. HACKET, *Archb. Williams*, i. 37. Mr. Lamb . . . came, by holding fast to Fortunes' middle finger, front a schoolmaster that taught PETTIES, to a proctor in a Christian Court, and so to an official.

PEW, *subs.* (colloquial).—A place of abode, or business; a crib: *see* DIGGINGS. Formerly a box at a theatre: *see* ROOM. In quot. 1659 = a sheep-pen.

1605. SHAKESPEARE, *Lear*, iii. 3. Poor Tom whom the foul fiend . . . hath laid knives under his pillow, and halters in his FEW; set ratsbane by his porridge.

1613. WEBSTER, *Devil's Law Case*, iv. 1. In a FEW of our office . . . I have been dry-founder'd . . . this four years, Seldom found non-resident from my desk.

1659. MILTON, *Means to Remove Hirelings*. His sheep oft-times sit the while to as little purpose of benefitting, as the sheep in their FEWS at Smythfield.

PEW-OPENER'S MUSCLE, *subs. phr.* (medical).—A muscle in the palm of the hand. [SIR BENJAMIN BRODIE: 'because it helps to contract and hollow the palm for the reception of a gratuity.']

PEWTER, *subs.* (nautical).—Generic for money: specifically prize-money: *see* RHINO.

1842. EGAN, *Macheath*, 'The Bould Yeoman', v. Hand up the PEWTER, farmer, you shall have a share.

1857. WHITTY, *Fr. of Bohemia*, 9. In these days it's the PEWTER makes the rank—and no mistake. By PEWTER Dwyorts meant gold.

1888. *Academy*, 24 Mar., 202. Another trifle to be noticed is the anxiety for PEWTER or prize-money which . . . animated our officers and men.

PEWY, *adj.* (sporting).—Enclosed by fences so as to form small fields.

1885. *Daily Telegraph*, 11 Dec. Sixty or seventy years since the fences were stronger, the enclosures smaller, the country more PEWY, and the hedges rougher and hairier than is now the case.

PFOTZE, *subs.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE.—J. HALL STEVENSON, *Crazy Tales* (1762).

PHALLUS, *subs.* (literary).—The *penis*: *see* PRICK. [Latin.]

PHARAOH, *subs.*—1. A corruption of 'faro.'

d.1732. GAY, *To Pulteney* [DAVIES]. Nanette last night at twinkling PHARAOH play'd, The cards the Talliers sliding hand obeyed.

1748. WALPOLE, *Letters*, II. 105. We divert ourselves extremely this winter; plays, balls, masquerades, and PHARAOH are all in fashion.

1760. MURPHY, *Way to Keep Him*, i. May I never taste the dear delight of breaking a PHARAOH bank, &c.

c. 1796. WOLCOT, *Peter Pindar*, 249. Behold a hundred coaches at her door, Where PHARO triumphs in his mad career.

2. (old).—A strong ale or beer: also OLD PHARAOH: *see* SWIPES. —B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

1685. *Praise of Yorkshire Ale*, 3. Lac'd Coffee, Twist, OLD PHARAOH, and Old Hoc.

d. 1704. T. BROWN [*Works*, II. 286]. Ezekiel Driver, of Puddle-dock, carman, having disorder'd his *pia mater* with too plentiful a morning's draught of three threads and OLD PHARAOH, had the misfortune to have his cart run over him.

1839. AINSWORTH, *Jack Sheppard* (1889), 39. Don't muddle your brains with any more of that PHARAOH.

ONE OF PHARAOH'S LEAN KINE, *subs. phr.* (common).—A thin, spare person: one who looks (1) as though he'd run away from a bone-house; or (2) as if he were walking about to save his funeral expenses.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *1 Hen. IV.*, II. 4. If to be fat be to be hated, then PHARAOH'S LEAN KINE are to be loved.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversation*, III. *Lady Smart*. . . . The Man and his Wife are coupled like Rabbits, a fat and a lean; he's as fat as a Porpus, and she's ONE OF PHARAOH'S LEAN KINE.

PHEASANT, *subs.* (common).—1. A wanton. Hence PHEASANTRY = a brothel.

2. *See* BILLINGSGATE-PHEASANT.

PHEEZE (PHEAZE, FEAZE, or FEIZE), *verb.* (old).—To chastise; *see* TAN.

1579. PUTTENHAM, *Partheniades*, 180. Your pride serves you to FEAZE them all alone.

1593. SHAKESPEARE, *Taming of Shrew*, Induct. I'll PHEEZE you, if I faith.

1602. SHAKESPEARE, *Troilus and Cr.*, II. 3. An he be proud with me, I'll PHEEZE his pride.

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, v. 5. Come, will you quarrel? I will FEIZE you, sirrah.

PHILADELPHIA-CATECHISM, *subs. phr.* (American nautical).—The couplet:—'Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thou art able, And on the seventh — holy-stone the decks and scrape the cable.'

PHILADELPHIA-LAWYER, *subs. phr.* (common).—A smart attorney: hence, TO PUZZLE (BE AS SMART AS, BEAT, or KNOW AS MUCH AS) A PHILADELPHIA-LAWYER = to be a paragon of shrewdness: *see* GREENBAG.

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*, 128. In that style he'd hammer out all the old and usual 'whids' which, to persons away south of his country, . . . to use a modern metaphor, would PUZZLE HALF-A-DOZEN PHILADELPHIA-LAWYERS to understand.

188 [7]. HAMILTON, *Men and Manners*, xi. 203. It is not unusual among the lower orders in England, when any knotty point is proposed for discussion, to say it would PUZZLE A PHILADELPHIA-LAWYER.

1901. *Daily Telegraph*, 6 Nov., 'Racing in the Fog.' Racing by electric light is better, all the same, than racing by no light at all, and what entertainment is afforded by a horse-race run "in camera," ONLY A PHILADELPHIA LAWYER WOULD BE ABLE TO EXPLAIN.

PHILANDER, *verb.* (old colloquial: now recognised).—To flirt; TO SPOON (*q.v.*); to wanton: of both sexes. Hence, as *subs.* (or PHILANDERER) = a lover: specifically a dangler after women.

1619. MASSINGER and FLETCHER, *Laws of Candy. Dram. Pers.* PHILANDER, Prince of Cyprus, passionately in love with Erota.

c.1707. *Old Ballad* [DURFEE, *Pills* (1707), II. 160]. For in your warm Beds Your PHYSSICK works best; And tho' in the taking Some stirring's required, The motion's so pleasant You cannot be tir'd.

2. (common).—Strong drink; MEDICINE (*q.v.*); LUSH (*q.v.*): see DRINKS and SCREWED.

3. (pugilists').—Hard hitting; PUNISHMENT (*q.v.*): also as *verb.*

4. (gaming).—Losses: wagers, points, and so forth. Also as *verb.*—BEE (1823).

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. v. If you do not get punished in your person, yet you may be most preciously PHYSSICKED in your clie.

PHYZ. See PHIZ.

PI (or PIE), *subs.* (printers').—I.

Type, jumbled and mixed. [Ordinarily a compositor, when distributing type, reads a line or sentence and is enabled to return it to 'case' with expedition: with PI, however, each 'stamp' has to be recognised separately.] Fr. *le p  t  *: *faire du p  t  * = to distribute PI; German, *swiebel-fisch* (= 'fish with onions').—BAILEY (1728). Also as *verb.*

d.1790. FRANKLIN, *Autobiog.*, 176. One night, when, having impos'd my formes, I thought my day's work over, one of them by accident was broken, and two pages reduced to PI.

1837. CARLYLE, *Fr. Revol.*, II. ii. iv. Your military ranked arrangement going all (as the typographers say of set types in a similar case) rapidly to PI.

2. (booksellers').—A miscellaneous collection of books out of the ALPHABET (*q.v.*).

Adj. (general).—Virtuous; sanctimonious: e.g., 'He's very PI now, he mugs all day'; 'He PI-JAWED me for thoking.' Whence, PI-JAW (or GAS) = a serious admonition; PI-MAN = SIM (*q.v.*).

1901. *To-Day*, 22 Aug., 124, 2. The one blot on her staircase was an individual who . . . had turned ostentatiously pious. "I 'ates them PI-MEN," Mrs. Moggs was wont to say, "as often as not it's sheer 'ypocrisy."

PIAZZAS. TO WALK THE PIAZZAS, *verb. phr.* (old).—To quest for men; now 'to walk the streets.'—BEE (1823). [The PIAZZAS were those in Covent Garden, only a portion of which now (1901) remain.]

PICAROON (PICKAROON or PICARO), *subs.* (old).—A rogue; a shabster: also as *verb.* = to rob; to prowl in quest of plunder.—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785). Also, ON THE PICARO = on the MAKE (*q.v.*). See PICK, *verb.* 1.

c.1617. HOWELL, *Letters*, I. iii. 30. I could not recover your diamond Hatband, which the PICAROON snatched from you in the Coach, tho' I used all Means Possible.

1652. MIDDLETON, *Spanish Gypsy*, II. 1. The arts . . . used by our Spanish PICAROES—I mean filching, foisting, nimming, jilting.

1675. CROWNE, *Country Wit*, III. 1. These night-corsairs and Algerines call'd the Watch, that PICAROON up and down the streets.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas*, VII. II. Monsieur de Santillane . . . I see you have been in your time a little ON THE PICARO.

1821. SCOTT, *Kenilworth*, XX. Notwithstanding thy boasted honesty, friend . . . I think I see in thy countenance something of the pedlar, something of the PICAROON.

PICAYUNE, *subs.* (American).—Formerly the Spanish half-real in Florida, Louisiana, &c.: now a five cent. piece or any small coin. Also (generic) money; RHINO (*q.v.*). Whence PICAYUNE (or PICAYUNISH) = small; mean; of little value. [Cf. Title of a famous journal, *The New Orleans Picayune* (the price of which is five cents).]

6.1848. *New York Herald* [BARTLETT]. There is nothing PICAVUNE about the members of St. George's Club; for the love of sport they will . . . enter upon matches that other clubs would not accept.

1871. *The Writer* [Century], III. 112. If only two cents are required, you will have prevented a PICAVUNE waste.

PICCADILL (or **PICCADILLO**), *subs.* (old).—1. See quot. 1892. Also (2) the ornamental border of a broad collar worn by women early in 17th century, as in quot. 1607.

1607. DEKKER and WEBSTER, *Northward Ho*, III. 1. A short Dutch waist with a round Catherine-wheel fardingale, a close sleeve with a cartouse collar, and a PICCADIL.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. PICCADILLES . . . the severall divisions or peeces fastened together about the brimme of the collar of a doublet.

1616. JONSON, *Devil is an Ass*, II. 1. I am not . . . the man . . . of that truth of PICARDIL in clothes, To boast a sovereignty o'er ladies.

1621. FLETCHER [? and another], *Pilgrim*, II. 2. Do you want a band, Sir? This is a coarse wearing. 'Twill sit but scurvily upon this collar, But patience is as good as a French PICKADEL.

1670. R. LASSELS, *Voy. Ital.*, II. 117 (1698). One half of his band about his neck, was a broad bone lace, starched white, the other half was made of coarse Lawn, starched blew, and standing out upou a PICKYDILLY of wire.

1892. FENNELL, *Stanford Dict.*, s.v. PICCADILL . . . A stiff collar over which an ornamental fall or collar was arranged, worn first at the close of the 16th century. Perhaps the spelling PICCADIL was suggested by the Italian use of *Picardia* for 'hanging,' 'place where persons are hanged.'

PICCADILLY BUTCHERS (THE), *subs. phr.* (military).—The First Life Guards. [Having been called out to quell the Piccadilly riots in 1810.] Also "The Cheeses"; "The Tin Bellies"; and "The Patent Safeties."

PICCADILLY - CRAWL, *subs. phr.* (obsolete).—A walk: modish in the Eighties. Cf. ALEXANDRA LIMP, GRECIAN BEND, ROMAN FALL, &c.

PICKANINNY (PICKANINNY, PINKANINNY, &c.), *subs.* (colloquial).—A baby; a child: specifically (modern) a child of negro parents. [Originally from PINK (an endearment) = small: see PIGSNEY.] —GROSE (1785).

1696. DUFFEY, *Pills to Purge* (1719), I. 282. Dear Pinckaninny, if half a guinea, To Lord will win ye, I lay it here down.

1855. HALIBURTON, *Nature and Human Nature*, 59. Let me see one of you dare to lay hands on this PICKANINNY.

1865. H. KINGSLEY, *Hillyars and Burtons*, xxviii. Five-and-forty black fellows, lubras, PICANINNIES, and all, at my heels.

1879. F. LOCKER, *The Old Cradle*. You were an exceeding small PICKANINNY, Some nineteen or twenty short summers ago.

1883. *Harper's Mag.* [Century], lxxvi. 809. A poor puny little PICKANINNY, black as the ace of spades.

PICK, *verb.* (old colloquial: now wrestlers').—1. To shoot; to fling.—BEE (1823).

1530. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Francoyse* [HALLIWELL]. I holde a grote I PYCKE as farre with an arrowe as you.

1610. SHAKESPEARE, *Coriolanus*, I. 1. It'd make a quarry With thousands of these quarter'd slaves, as high As I could PICK my lance.

2. (old: now colloquial).—To pilfer; to choose thievishly: also PICKER, but, usually TO PICK AND CUT or TO PICK POCKETS. Also as *subs.* (or PICKING) = petty larceny (GROSE, 1785): cf. (Prayer Book) 'Keep my hands from PICKING and stealing.' Hence PICKER (PICKER-UP or PICKERER) = (1) a petty thief;

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*, *Disdossa, alla disdossa*, loosely on ones backe, a PICK-A-PACK.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, i. ii. 72. Mounted a PICK-BACK.

1665. *Homer-a-la-mode* [NARES]. Some two or three meet in a hole Together, their state to condole, Yet none of them knowes what they lack Unless they'd be brought home PICK-PAK.

1677. *Wrangling Lovers* [NARES]. Ile have her to him, tho it be on PICK-PACK.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* [Works (1725), 129]. And through the Fire A-PICK A-PACK, Bore the old Sinner on his Back.

d.1704. L'ESTRANGE [Century]. In a hurry she whips up her darling under her arms, and carries the other a PICKAPACK upon her shoulders.

PICK-AND-DAB, *subs. phr.* (Scots'). —A meal of potatoes and salt; POTATOES-AND-POINT (*q.v.*).

PICKERS. See PICK, *verb.* 2.

PICKER-UP, *subs. phr.* (Stock Exchange). —A dealer buying on quotations trickily obtained from a member trapped into giving a wrong price.

PICKLE, *subs.* (colloquial). —I. A difficult or disagreeable position; a plight. Hence, A CASE OF PICKLES = a bad breakdown; a serious quandary.

1609. SHAKESPEARE, *Tempest*, v. i. How camest thou in this PICKLE?

1614. *Time's Whistle* [E. E. T. S.], 60. But they proceed till one drops downe dead drunke, . . . And all the rest, in a sweet PICKLE brought, . . . Lie downe beside him.

1633. JONSON, *Tale of a Tub*, iii. 5. I am now in a fine PICKLE.

1694. CROWNE, *Married Beau*, iv. 1. Oh! pox! IN WHAT A PICKLE am I!

1697. VANBRUGH, *Provoked Wife*, iv. 6. *Sir J. [covered with dirt and blood].* What the plague does the woman squall for? Did you never see a man IN A PICKLE before?

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas*, iv. vi. Gentlemen, I know this epicure; it is . . . the . . . rector of our university; notwithstanding THE PICKLE you see him in now, he is a great man . . . a little addicted to lawsuits, a bottle, and a wench.

2. (colloquial). —A wag; specifically, a troublesome child: cf. PEREGRINE PICKLE (1751). *Title*. Hence PICKLED = roguish; wag-gish. —B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

1706. FARQUHAR, *Recruiting Officer*, v. 4. His poor boy Jack was the most comical bastard . . . a PICKLED dog; I shall never forget him.

1883. *Harper's Mag.*, lxxvi. 140. Tummas was a PICKLE—a perfect 'andful.

3. (medical students'). —In *pl.* = specimens for dissection direct from the subject.

Verb. (common). —To humbug; TO GAMMON (*q.v.*).

IN PICKLE, *adv. phr.* (old). —Foxed or clapt. —B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

A ROD IN PICKLE (OR PISS), *subs. phr.* (colloquial). —A flogging or scolding in reserve; 'a revenge in lavender.' —B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785). [As in the old school rhyme:—'ROD IN PICKLE, Rump to tickle.' In the days of authority rods were pickled in urine or in brine, which elements, it was held, imparted toughness.]

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* [Works (1725), 126]. Therefore I think it not amiss for's To launch, for there are RODS IN PISS for's.

PICKLE-HERRING (OR PICKLED-HERRING), *subs. phr.* (old). —A buffoon: see BUFFLE. —GROSE (1785).

1602. SHAKESPEARE, *Twelfth Night*, i. 5. A plague o' these PICKLE-HERRING! How now, sot.

1694. CROWNE, *Married Beau*, iv. 1. I don't know what I am now; a PICKLE-HERRING I think. I'd be loath to meet with a hungry Dutch seaman.

1711. ADDISON, *Spectator*, No. 47. There is a set of merry drolls . . . whom every nation calls by the name of that dish of meat which it loves best. In Holland they are termed PICKLED HERRINGS, &c. [See JACK PUDDING.]

PICKLE-JAR, *subs. phr.* (common).—A coachman in yellow.

PICKLE-ME-TICKLE-ME. TO PLAY AT PICKLE-ME-TICKLE-ME, *verb. phr.* (venery).—To copulate.—URQUHART (1653). See GREENS AND RIDE.

PICKLOCK, *subs.* (venery).—The penis; THE KEY (*g.v.*): see PRICK.—URQUHART (1653); CLELLAND.

PICK-ME-UP, *subs. phr.* (common).—A stimulant.

1901. *Free Lance*, 11 May, 123, 2. The doctors are said to frown upon the new PICK-ME-UP, and to threaten serious consequences from its use.

PICK-PENNY, *subs.* (old).—1. See PINCHIFIST.

2. (old).—A sharper.

PICK-PIE. TO TURN A PICK-PIE, *verb. phr.* (old).—To make a somersault.

PICK-PURSE, *subs.* (old).—A thief: also as *adj.* = mercenary; fraudulent.

d.1529. DUNBAR [LAING, *Works*, 161]. Be I ane lord, and not lord like, Than every pelour and PURSE-PIKE.

1555. [MAILLAND, *Reformation* (1849), 529]. Such PICK-PURSE matters is all the whole rabble of your ceremonies; for all is but money matters that ye maintain.

1594. LVLV, *Mother Bombie*, v. 3. This is your old trick, to PICK one's PURSE, and then to picke quarrels.

15[?]. *Reasoning betw. Crossraguell and J. Knox*, B. iii, b. They affirmed—Purgatorie to be nothing but a PYKEPURS.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, 1 *Hen. IV.*, ii. 1, 54. At hand, quoth PICK-PURSE. *Ibid.* (1600), *As You Like it*, iii. 4. I think he is not a PICK-PURSE nor a horse-stealer.

1767. RAY, *Proverbs* [BOHN], 69. A good bargain is a PICK-PURSE.

PICKSOME, *adj.* (colloquial).—Fastidious; particular; given to 'picking and choosing.'

1888. BESANT, *Fifty Years Ago*, 136. We were not quite so PICKSOME in the matter of company as we are now.

PICK-THANK, *subs.* (old).—A toady: also as *adj.* and *verb.*—AWDELEY (1567); B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

1412. OCCLEVE, *De Reg. Prin.* [Roxburgh Club], 110. He never denyethe His lordes resons, but a THANKE TO PIKE.

1512-13. DOUGLAS, *Virgil*, Prol. 238, b.55. Sum prig penny, sum PYKE THANK with preyu promit.

1513-25. SKELTON [DYCE, *Works*, ii. 60]. There be two tyther, rude and ranke, Symkyn Tytyuell and PERS PYKTHANKE.

1516. MORE, *Utopia*, i. He is ashamed to say that which is said already, or else to PICK A THANK with his prince,

d.1577. GASCOIGNE [ARBER, *English Garner*, 1. 63]. A pack of PICK-THANKS were the rest, Which came false witness for to bear.

1580. LVLV, *Euphues*, A4, b. Fine heads will PICK a quarrell with me, if all be not curious, and flatterers A THANKE if anie thing be currant.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, 1 *Henry IV.*, iii. 2. Which oft the ear of greatness needs must hear, By smiling PICK-THANKS and base newsmongers.

1603. KNOLLES, *His Turks*, 108. Whereunto were joined also the hard speeches of her PICKTHANKE favourites, who to curry favell spared not, &c.

perfect PICTURE'—child, horse, and so forth : also ironically, *e.g.*, a pretty PICTURE = a strange figure.

NOT IN THE PICTURE, *phr.* (colloquial).—Strange ; inappropriate ; better away ; and (racing) unplaced.

See also LAWFUL PICTURES.

PICTURE-FRAME. See SHERIFF'S PICTURE-FRAME.

PICTURE-HAT, *subs. phr.* (common).—See quot.

1901. *Referee*, 14 Ap., 5 3. The lady who is the subject of the picture [the Gainsborough Duchess of Devonshire] set a fashion in hats which women continue to wear up to the present style. Even the Parisian ladies affected the style. And nowadays no suburban wedding is complete if the bridesmaids do not wear PICTURE HATS, the usual but very foolish description of the articles under discussion. *Ibid.*, 9, 3. The return of the Gainsborough will, we are told, revive the big hat. The amiable "Gainsborough" of South Molton-street assures me that the PICTURE HAT has never really gone out of fashion.

PIDDLE, *subs.* (nursery).—LANT (*q.v.*). Also as *verb.* = RACK OFF (*q.v.*) ; STROAN (*q.v.*).—GROSE (1785).

2. (common).—To do languidly or to little purpose ; TO NIGGLE (*q.v.*). Hence, PIDDLER = a trifler ; and PIDDLING = mean, of small account, squeamish.—GROSE (1785).

1544. ASCHAM, *Toxophilus* [Arber], 117. And so . . . auoyde bothe greate trouble and also some cost whiche you cunningge archers . . . put your selues vnto . . . neuer ceasyng FIDDELYNGE about your bowe and shaftes when they be well, but eyther with . . . newe fetheryng, &c.

c.1622. MIDDLETON, *Mayor of Wimbledon* (1661), v. 1. Nine geese, and some throe larks for FIDDLING meat.

1629. MASSINGER, *Picture*, iii. 6. My lord Hath gotten a new mistress. *Ubalde*. One ! a hundred . . . They talk of Hercules' fifty in a night, 'Twas well ; but yet to yours he was a PIDDLER.

1632. SHIRLEY, *The Changes*, ii. 2. Let children, when they versify, stick here and there these PIDDLING words for want of matter. Poets write masculine numbers.

1690. CROWNE, *English Friar*, ii. He has a weak stomach and cant make a meal, unless he has a dozen pretty dishes to FIDDLE upon.

1733. POPE, *Horace*, ii. ii. 137. Content with little I can FIDDLE here, On brocoli and mutton round the year.

d.1745. SWIFT [quoted by Maidment]. From stomach sharp, and hearty feeding, To FIDDLE like a lady breeding.

d.1774. GOLDSMITH, *Criticisms* [Century]. A PIDDLING reader . . . might object to almost all the rhymes of the above quotation.

1902. HENLEY, *Views and Reviews*, ii. 10. Though the Castle of Otranto is a PIDDLING piece of super-nature.

PIE, *subs.* (colloquial).—(1) A magpie ; and (2) a prating gossip. WILY PIE = a sly rogue.

1369. CHAUCER, *Troilus*, iii. 527. Dredeles it clere was in the wynde Of every PIE, and every lette-game.

d.1529. SKELTON, *Balletys and Dyties* [Dyce, i. 24, 34]. By theyr conusaunce knowing how they serue a WILY FY.

1577. STANIHURST, *Desc. of Ireland*, 13. Howbeit in the English pale to this day they use to tearme a slie cousener a WILIE PIE.

c.1580. *Ballad of Troilus* [Halliwell]. Then Pandare, lyke a WVLV FYE . . . Slept to the tabell by and by, And forthe he blew the candell.

[?]. M. S. Rawlinson, C258. The FYE hathe pecked you.

3. See P1, *subs.*, sense 1.

[More or less colloquial are :—TO HAVE A FINGER IN THE PIE (or, indeed, any matter) = to meddle, to join in : cf. BOAT ; TO MAKE A PIE = to combine with a view to profit ; LIKE PIE = with

zest : cf. JAM ; IN SPITE OF THE PIE=obstinately (PIE=the Book of the Offices of the Church) ; NOT TO COOK ANY OF THE PIE (American) = to abandon an enterprise, to take no further interest (MARK TWAIN).

1601. SHAKSPEARE, *Henry VIII.*, i. 1. No man's PIE IS FREED FROM HIS ambitious FINGER.

1603-15. *Court Jas. I.* (1848), i. 37. If this earl should be found hereafter any-ways privy thereto, it cannot be but that Beaumont's HAND WAS IN THE PIE.

1608. WITHAL, *Dictionarie*, 390. Pertinax in rem aliquam, that is fully bent to doe a thing, that will doe it, yea marie will he, maugre or IN SPIGHT OF THE PIE.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 160. It was but fair I should have A FINGER IN THE EARNINGS. *Ibid.*, 297. I was entitled to have A FINGER IN THE DISSIPATION.

1767. RAY, *Proverbs* [BOHN], 159. He had A FINGER IN THE PIE when he burnt his nail off.

1842. EGAN, *By-blow of the Jug*, ii. She taught him soon to swear and lie, And to HAVE A FINGER IN EVERY PIE.

1887. HENLEY, *Culture in Slums*, 'Ballade' 3. I goes for 'Olman 'Unt LIKE PIE.

PIECE, *subs.* (old).—1. A person, male or female : often in contempt. Also (of women) PIECE (or BIT) OF MUTTON, MUSLIN, OR GOODS.

1290. *Cursor Mundi*, 634. A wel godd PECE [of St. John].

1574. RICHARD BOWER, *Appins and Virginia* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (Hazlitt), iv. 125]. O passing PIECE.

1604. SHAKSPEARE, *Winter's Tale*, v. 1. 'His princess say you?' . . . 'Ay, the most peerless PIECE.' *Ibid.*, v. 3. O royal PIECE.

1606. CHAPMAN, *Monsieur D'Olive*, v. 1. She's but a shallow, freckle-faced PIECE when she is at the best.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, iv. 1. 'S blood, I was never cosened with a more rascal PIECE of mutton, Since I came out a' the Lower Countries.

1614. JONSON, *Bartholomew Fair*, i. 1. He is another manner of PIECE than you think for.

1629. MASSINGER, *Picture*, iii. 6. *Ubalde*. This ring was Julietta's, a fine PIECE, But very good at the sport.

1633. NABBES, *Totenham-Court*, ii. 2. She seems a handsome PIECE. That opportunity Would play the Bawd a little!

1635. GLAPTHORNE, *The Lady Mother*, i. 3. She is . . . a corrupted PEICE, A most lascivious prostitute.

1655. STRODE, *Floating Island*, E 1. This lewde crack'd abominable PEICE.

1673. WYCHERLEY, *Gentleman Dancing Master*, v. 1. I am thinking . . . what those ladies who are never precise but at a play would say of me now :—that I were a confident coming PIECE, I warrant, and they would damn the poor poet for libelling the sex.

1678. COTTON, *Scoffer Scoft* [Works (1725), 227]. But each one must not think to bear So fine a PIECE as *Mulciber*.

1688. CROWNE, *City Politics*, i. 1. Since she is so weak a PIECE I'll fortify her.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE (1866), 4]. She seemed a pretty PIECE OF GOODS enough, and such a stirring body. *Ibid.*, 80. Keeping open house . . . for the votaries of pleasure . . . She had always two or three other PIECES of damaged goods in the house.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. PIECE . . . A damned good or bad PIECE ; a girl who is more or less active and skilful in the amorous congress. Hence the (*Cambridge*) toast, May we never have a PIECE (peace) that will injure the Constitution.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. PIECE—a soldier calls his musket his PIECE, and so he calls his trull ; but highflyers are so termed—behind their backs.

2. *in pl.* (common).—Money ; RHINO (*q.v.*). [From the old Spanish 'pieces of eight.']

1558. FOXE, *Martyrs* [Cateley (1843), 473]. The maid . . . having a PIECE of money lying by her, given unto her by the death of a kinsman of hers . . . brought unto him thirty pounds.

d.1529. SKELTON, *Elynour Rummyng*, 233. Then sweetely together we ly, As two PVGES IN A STY.

1621. JONSON, *News from the New World* [Century]. You should be some dull tradesman by your PIG-HEADED sconce now.

1607. DEKKER and WEBSTER, *Westward Hoe*, v. 3. He BLEEDS LIKE A PIG, for his crown's crack'd.

1678. COTTON, *Scoffer Scoft* [Works (1725), 185]. *Gam.* But when I PIG'd with mine own *Dad*, I us'd to make him hopping mad.

1697. VANBRUGH, *Provoked Wife*, iv. 6. Now, you being as dirty and as nasty as myself, we may GO PIG TOGETHER.

1698. *Unnatural Mother* [NARES]. By the side of the wood there is a curious hansom gentlewoman lies as dead as a herring, and BLEEDS LIKE ANY STUCK PIG.

1704. *Gentleman Instructed*, 537. When reason sleeps extravagance breaks loose; quality and peasantry PIG TOGETHER.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 373. He STARED LIKE A STUCK PIG at my equipment.

c.1780. TOMLINSON, *Flash Pastoral*. And Nancy PIGGED with me wherever I went.

d.1845. HOOD, *Tale of a Trumpet*. How the Smiths contrived to live and whether The fourteen Murphies all PIGG'd TOGETHER.

1857. WHITTY, *Fr. of Bohemia*, 86. What narrow stairs! How dreadful it is that grandfather will stick to this PIGGY street.

d.1859. MACAULAY, *Sir Wm. Temple*. But he hardly thinks that the sufferings of a dozen felons PIGGING together on bare bricks . . . suited to the dignity of history.

18 [?]. *West. Review* [Century]. TO PIG IT like the prodigal son.

18 [?]. *The Engineer* [Century]. The working man here is content to PIG it, to use an old-country term, in a way that an English workman would not care to do.

1860. GEORGE ELIOT, *Mill on the Floss*, i. 3. A thoroughly PIG-HEADED fellow.

1888. HENLEY and STEVENSON, *Deacon Brodie*, ii. 4, 1. *Brodie* (searching). Where's a hat for the Deacon? where's a hat for the Deacon's headache? This place is a PIGGERY.

2. (old). — A policeman, or detective. Also GRUNTER: see BEAK. CHINA STREET PIG = a Bow St. officer. — GROSE (1785); VAUX (1819).

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, l. i. Do not frown upon me, but stretch out thine hand to my assistance, thou bashaw of the PIGS, and all but beak!

3. (military). — In *pl.* = The Seventy-Sixth Foot, now the 2nd Batt. West Riding Regiment. [From its badge.] Also THE IMMORTALS (*q.v.*) and THE OLD SEVEN AND SIXPENNIES (*q.v.*).

4. (printers'). — A pressman: cf. DONKEY.

1841. SAVAGE, *Dict.* s.v.

5. (common). — Sixpence: see BENDER, HOG, and RHINO. — B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

6. (Cambridge University). — See HOG, *subr.*, sense 3.

7. (tailors'). — An utterly spoiled garment. Also PORK.

COLLOQUIAL PHRASES are: — A PIG IN A POKE = a blind bargain: Fr. *acheter chat en poche* (B. E., c.1696; GROSE, 1785; BEE, 1823); TO STUFF A FAT PIG IN THE TAIL = to give unnecessarily: TO TAKE ONE'S PIGS (or HOGS) TO MARKET = to deal, or do business: generally with PRETTY, FAIR, FINE, or BAD, when = a good or bad bargain, to succeed or fail (B. E., c.1696; GROSE, 1785); TO DRIVE ONE'S PIGS (or HOGS) TO MARKET = to snore (GROSE, 1785); TO FOLLOW LIKE AN ANTHONY PIG = to beg, to hang on (GROSE, 1785); TO GET THE WRONG SOW BY THE EAR (or, Am., THE WRONG PIG BY THE TAIL) = to make a mistake; WHEN PIGS FLY = Never:

see QUEEN DICK; COLD PIG = (1) see *ante* and add 'GROSE, 1785'; (2) goods on sale when returned (BEE, 1823); and (3, medical) = a corpse, DEAD-MEAT (*q.v.*); TO HAVE BOILED PIG AT HOME = to be master in one's house (GROSE: an allusion to a well-known poem and story); BRANDY IS LATIN FOR PIG AND GOOSE = an excuse for a dram after either (GROSE); PLEASE THE PIGS = 'If circumstances permit,' '*Deo volente*'; LONG (or -MASKED) PIG = human flesh: exposed openly for sale in Hayti under this name; TO TEACH A PIG TO PLAY ON A FLUTE = to attempt the absurd or impossible; 'WHEN A PIG IS PROFFERED, HOLD UP THE POKE' = 'Never refuse a good offer'; 'YOU CAN'T MAKE HORN OF PIG'S TAIL' (see SOW'S EAR); TO MISTAKE A PIG FOR A DOG = to act stupidly; CHILD'S PIG BUT FATHER'S BACON = a pretended benefit: as when a pet animal is sold; TO GREASE A FAT PIG (or SOW) ON THE ARSE (RAY) = to be insensible of a kindness.

1383. CHAUCER, *Reeves Tale*, l. 358. And in the floor, with nose and mouth to broke, They walwe as doon two PIGGES IN A POKE.

14 [7]. *Douce MS.* 52. When me profereth THE FIGGE, open THE POGHE.

1546. HEYWOOD, *Proverbs*, s.v. TO FULL THE WRONG PIG BY THE EAR.

1634. WITTHAL, *Dict.*, 583. *Terra volat*, FIGS FLIE in the ayre with their tayles forward.

1678. COTTON, *Scoffer Scoff* (*Works* (1725) 257). He will not BUY A PIG A POKE IN: But wisely will bring all things out, And see within doors and without.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (*Works* (1725) 122). Thou hast of Hope not one Spark left, Th' hast BROUGHT THY HOGS TO A FAIR MARKET.

d. 1682. T. BROWN, *Works*, ii. 198. I'll have one of the wigs to carry into the country with me, and PLEASE THE PIGS.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversations*, ii. 455. I gad he fell asleep, and snored so loud that we thought he was DRIVING HIS HOGS TO MARKET.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Roderick Random*, xv. Strap with a hideous groan observed that we had BROUGHT OUR PIGS TO A FINE MARKET. *Ibid.*, *Hump Clinker* (1771). Roger may CARRY HIS PIGS TO ANOTHER MARKET.

d. 1819. WOLCOT ('Peter Pindar') [BEE]. 'And then for why, the folk do rail; To STUFF AN OLD FAT PIG I' TH' TAIL,—Old gripus of Long-Leat.'

1853. LYTTON, *My Novel*, v. xvii. 'PLEASE THE PIGS,' then said Mr. Avenel to himself, 'I shall pop the question.'

1890. BOLDREWOOD, *Squatter's Dream*, 50. Of course I must see them . . . I never BUY A PIG IN A POKE.

1896. STEVENSON, *South Seas* [Edin. xx. 84]. While the drums were going twenty strong . . . the priests carried up the blood-stained baskets of LONG PIG.

1900. NISBET, *Sheep's Clothing*, 201. He felt that he had SOLD HIS PIGS IN A BAD MARKET. If he had waited he might have met the right woman with even a larger dower.

PIG AND TINDER-BOX, *subs. phr.* (old).—The Elephant and Castle.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. iii. Toddle to the PIG AND TINDER-BOX, they have got a drap of comfort there.

PIG AND WHISTLE LIGHT INFANTRY (THE), *subs. phr.* (military).—The Highland Light Infantry, formerly the 71st and 74th Regiments of Foot.

PIG-EATER, *subs. (old)*.—An endearment.

PIGEON (or STOOL-PIGEON), *subs. (old)*.—1. A dupe; a GULL (*q.v.*); a FLY (*q.v.*): cf. ROOK and SPIDER [cf. Thackeray's title, *Captain Rook and Mr. Pigeon*]. Hence, as *verb.* (or TO PLUCK A PIGEON = to swindle.) Fr. *un*

pigeon, un dindon, or un lordu; Sp. *palamo* (= pigeon), or *sangrado* (= subject for bleeding); It. *un spagnuolo*.—GROSE (1785); BEE (1823).

1585. *Les Dialogues de Jacques Tauréan*. Je me defieroy tantost que tu serois un de ceux qui ne se laissent si facilement PIGEONNER à telles gens.

1730. *Observer*, No. 27. He's PIGEON'D and undone.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE (1866), 146]. A flatterer may play what game he likes against the PIGEONS of high life! They let you look over their hand, and then wonder that you beat them.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. i. Always on the look out for a 'good customer.' He, however, prefers PIGEONS.

1831. DISRAELI, *Young Duke*, IV. vi. Lord Castlefort was the jackal to these prowling beasts of prey; looked out for PIGEONS, and got up little parties to Richmond or Brighton.

1871. *Levant Herald*, 22 Feb., 'Gambling Table at Constantinople.' The police agents . . . made a sudden *raastia* . . . Catching some of the croupiers, bonnets, and PIGEONS in *fragrans delicto*.

1888. HENLEY and STEVENSON, *Deacon Brodie*, I. 1, 7. *Smith*. I've trapped a PIGEON for you. *Brodie*. Can't you FLOCK him yourself?

1897. *Referee*, 14 Mar., 1, 1. These senators could differentiate between the claimants and debtors who knew the ropes, the hawks who harried PIGEONS, and, generally speaking, the straight and the crooked.

1901. *Pall Mall Gas.*, 13 May, 7, 3. A plaintiff objected to the description of "moneylender," and explained that he had many other interests besides the lending of money—for instance, he was devoted to birds. "PIGEONS?" asked the judge.

2. (old).—See *quots.* and *cf.* sense 1.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. PIGEONS. Sharpers, who, during the drawing of the lottery, wait ready mounted near Guildhall, and, as soon as the first two or three numbers are drawn, which they receive from a confederate on a card, ride with them full speed to some distant insurance office, before fixed on, where

there is another of the gang, commonly a decent-looking woman, who takes care to be at the office before the hour of drawing: to her he secretly gives the number, which she insures for a considerable sum: thus biting the biter.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. PIGEON . . . 'To pigeon the news' is to send information by carrier pigeon. So fellows, who ran or rode with news surreptitiously obtained, received the name of PIGEONS from their occupation.

3. See BLUE PIGEON.

4. (colonial).—Business: see PIGEON ENGLISH. [The Chinese pronunciation of the English word.]

PAUL'S PIGEONS, *subs. phr.* (school).—The scholars of St. Paul's school.

1662. FULLER, *Worthies* (London), i. 65. St. Anthoine's Pigs (so were the scholars of that School [City of London] commonly called, as those of St. Paul, PAUL'S PIGEONS). [Fuller refers to Stowe's *Survey* as his authority.]

TO MILK THE PIGEON, *verb. phr.* (old).—'To attempt impossibilities, to be put to shifts for want of money.'—GROSE (1785). *Cf.* PIGEON'S-MILK.

PHRASES more or less colloquial are:—PIGEON-BREADED = with protruding breast; PIGEON-HEARTED (or LIVERED) = timid; PIGEON-TOED = with turned-in toes; PIGEON-WING = (1) a late 18th century mode of dressing the side hair: now American, (2) a wig so called, and (3) a brisk step or caper in dancing, skating; TO SHOOT AT A PIGEON AND KILL A CROW = to blunder willfully; TO CATCH TWO PIGEONS WITH ONE BEAN (see STONE).

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet*, II. 2. I am PIGEON-LIVER'D, and lack gall To make oppression bitter.

1621. FLETCHER, *Pilgrim*, III. 4. I never saw such PIGEON-HEARTED people.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* (ROUTLEDGE), 328. Yet he was not so PIGEON-LIVERED as to surrender without an effort in my favour.

1836. CLARKE, *Ollapodiana Papers*. One haw-buck dancer—a fellow whom I caught in several vulgar attempts to achieve a PIGEON-WING—came up to me with an impudent air.

1837. BARNHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'Dead Drummer,' II. 171. The PIGEON-TORD step and the rollicking motion, Bespoke them two genuine sons of the ocean.

PIGEON ENGLISH (or **PIDGIN**), *subs. phr.* (colonial).—A jargon serving as a means of inter-communication between the Chinese and the English-speaking races all over the world: alike in Shanghai and San Francisco. [A corruption of 'business-English'—business—bidginess—bidgin—pidgin—pigeon.]

PIGEON-HOLE, *subs. phr.* (printers').

—1. An over-wide space between printed words; a RAT-HOLE (*q.v.*).

2. (Winchester College).—A small study.

3. (venery).—The female *pudendum*; the BREADWINNER (*q.v.*): see MONOSYLLABLE.

PIGEON-HOLE SOLDIERS, *subs. phr.* (military).—Clerks and orderlies.

1871. *Echo*, 1 July, 'The Guards' Review.' Now and then I observed a little confusion, but this was caused by a number of PIGEON-HOLE SOLDIERS who scarcely ever do any duty in the ranks.

PIGEON-PAIR, *subs. phr.* (old).—Twins of opposite sex. [Pigeons lay two eggs which usually hatch as a pair.]

PIGEON'S-MILK, *subs. phr.* (common).—An imaginary product in quest of which fools are sent: cf. STRAP-OIL, SQUAD UMBRELLA,

&c.—GROSE (1785). Hence TO MILK THE PIGEON = to attempt impossibilities. [The idea is old: cf. Aristophanes in *Aves* (line 1672).]

1883. FRERE, *Birds of Aristophanes*, III. p. 75. Here you shall domineer and rule the roast, With splendour and opulence and PIGEON'S MILK.

PIGGOT, *verb.* (political: obsolete).

—To forge. [A reminiscence of the Parnell Commission: the expression was born in the House of Commons, 28th Feb., 1889.] Cf. SALISBURY; BURKE; BOYCOTT; MAFFICK, &c.

PIGGY-WIGGY (PIAWIGGIN or PIGGY-WHIDDEN), *subs. phr.* (familiar).

—A pet pig: hence, a comic endearment (see DRAYTON, *Nymphidia*, where it is used as the name of a kind of Puck). [From PIGGY = a diminutive + WHIDDY = white.]

1678. COTTON, *Scoffer Scoffs* (*Works* (1725), 197). *Vulg.* What such a nazardly PIGWIGGEN, A little Hang-strings in a Biggin?

PIG-POKER, *subs.* (old).—A swine-herd.

PIG-RUNNING, *subs. phr.* (old).—See quot.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. PIG RUNNING. A piece of game frequently practised at fairs, wakes, &c. A large pig, whose tail is cut short, and both soaped and greased, being turned out, is hunted by the young men and boys, and becomes the property of him who can catch and hold him by the tail, above the height of his head.

PIGS-AND-WHISTLES. TO GO TO PIGS-AND-WHISTLES, *verb phr.* (Scots).—To be ruined.

1801. *The Har'et Rig*, 48. The back-ga'en fell ahint, And couldna stand; So he TO PIGS-AND-WHISTLES WENT, And left the land.

1822. GALT, *Entail*, i. 9. I would be nane surprised the morn to hear that the Nebuchadnezzar was a' GANE TO PIGS AND WHISTLES, and driven out wi' the divors bill to the barren pastures of bankruptcy.

PIG-SCONCE, *subs.* (old).—A lout; a dullard: *see* BUFFLE.

1659. MASSINGER, *City Madam*, iii. 1. *Ding*. He is no PIG-SCONCE mistress. *Secret*. He has an excellent headpiece.

1879. MEREDITH, *Egoist*, xxxvii. These representatives of the PIG-SCONCES of the population.

PIG'S-EAR (or -LUG), *subs. phr.* (tailors').—A very large lappel collar or flap.

PIG'S-FOOT, *subs. phr.* (American).—A short cloven crowbar; a JEMMY (*q.v.*).

PIGSKIN, *subs.* (racing).—A saddle. Hence KNIGHT OF THE PIGSKIN = a jockey.

d.1870. DICKENS [quoted in *Century*]. He was my governor, and no better master ever sat in PIG-SKIN.

1898. *Sporting Times*, 26 Nov., 3, 3. After a few days' rest he was in the saddle and has again electrified English turf followers by riding rings around their crack KNIGHTS OF THE PIGSKIN.

PIGSNEY, *subs. phr.* (old).—A girl: an endearment: *see* TITTER. Hence (2), a woman's eye.—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

13 [?] CHAUCER, *Remedie of Loue* [Ency. Dict.]. Come hither, ye PIGGES-NYE, ye little babe.

d.1529. SKELTON [DVCE, *Works*, i. 20, 19]. Good mastres Anne . . . What prate ye, praty PVGGSNEY.

1534. UDALL, *Roister Doister* [ARBER, i. 4, p. 27]. Then ist mine oune PVGS NIE, and blessing on my hart.

1580. SIDNEY, *Arcadia*, 277. Miso, mine own PIGSNIE, thou shalt have news of Dametas.

d.1588. TARLETON, *Horse Loads of Fooles* [HALLIWELL]. The player fooles deare darling PIGSNIE.

1594. LVLV, *Mother Bombie*, ii. 2. PIGSNIE is put up, and . . . I'll let him take the aire.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.* iii., ii. 4, 1. All the pleasant names may be invented; bird . . . lamb, puss . . . PIGSNEY, hony, love, dove . . . he puts on her.

1665. *Homer-a-la-Mode* [NARES]. As soon as she close to him came, She spake and call'd him by his name . . . PIGSNV, Quoth she, tell me who made it cry.

PIG-STICKER, *subs.* (common).—1. A pork-butcher.

2. (common).—A long-bladed pocket-knife; and (3) a sword.

PIG-STY, *subs. phr.* (printers').—1. The press-room. *See* PIG, *subs.* sense 4.

2. (common).—A place of abode or business: *see* DIGGINGS.

PIG'S-WHISPER, *subs. phr.* (common) = 1. A grunt.

2. (common).—A very short space of time [*i.e.*, as brief as a grunt]. BEE (1823). Also (American), PIG'S-WHISTLE.

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxxii. You'll find yourself in bed in something less than a PIG'S WHISPER.

PIG-TAIL, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A Chinaman.

2. (Stock Exchange).—*In pl.* = the Shares of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China: *see* STOCK EXCHANGE.

PIG-YOKE, *subs. phr.* (nautical).—A quadrant.

1836. MARRYAT, *Midshipman Easy*, xiv. Mesby agreed with Jack that this was the 'ne plus ultra' of navigation; and that old Smallsale could not do better with his PIG-YOKE and compasses.

PIKE, *subs.* (common).—1. A turn-pike road; and (2) = a tramp, a gypsy (also **PIKEY** and **PIKER**): as *verb* = to walk (also **TO PIKE OFF**, and **TO TIP A PIKE**): whence **TO PIKE ON THE BEEN** = to hook it for all one's worth. Hence **PIKE-KEEPER** (or **PIKEMAN**) = a toll-keeper; **TO BILK A PIKE** = to cheat a toll-gate.

15 [7]. *Parlament of Byrdes* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poet.* iii. 180]. When his fethers are pluked he may him go **PIKE**.

c.1570. *Ane Ballat of Matrymonis* [LAING, *Pop. Poet. Scotland*, ii. 77]. He had them then go **PYKE** them home.

1712. SHIRLEV, *Triumph of Wit*, 'Budg and Snudg Song,' 2. We file off with his cole As he **PIKES** along the street. *Ibid.*, 'The Black Procession.' Tho' he **TIPS THEM A PIKE**, they oft nap him again.

c.1789. PARKER, *Sandman's Wedding* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 65]. Into a booze-ken they **PIKE IT**.

1826. MORLEY, *Song*, 'Flashey Joe' FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 97]. So I'll **PIKE OFF** with my mack'ral And you may bolt with your salt cod.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxii. 'What do you mean by a **PIKE-KEEPER**?' enquired Mr. Peter Magnus. 'The old 'un means a turn-pike keeper' . . . observed Mr. Weller.

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, i. iv. Then there was . . . the cheery toot of the guard's horn to warn some drowsy **PIKEMAN**, or the ostler at the next change.

1874. BORROW, *Wordbook*, . . . The people called in Acts of Parliament, sturdy beggars and vagrants in the old cant language Abraham men, and in the modern **PIKERS**.

1888. BESANT, *Fifty Years Ago*, 42. The turnpike has gone, and the **PIKEMAN** . . . has gone . . . and the gates have been removed.

3. (American: Southern States).—A poor white.

1873. NORDHOFF, *California*, 137. The true **PIKE** . . . is the wandering, gipsy-like southern poor white.

4. (venery).—The *penis*: see **PRICK**.

1600. SHAKESPEARE, *Much Ado*, v. 2. You must put in the **PIKES** with a vice; and they are dangerous weapons for maids.

Verb. (old).—1. See *subs.*, sense 1.

2. (old).—To die: also **TO PIKE OFF**: see **HOP THE TWIG**.

3. (American gaming).—To play cautiously and for small stakes. Hence **PIKER** = a moderate punter.

TO PASS THE PIKES, *verb. phr.* (old).—To be out of danger.—B. E. (c.1696).

1648. HERRICK, *Hesperides*, 'His Cavalier.' This a virtuous man can doe, Saile against Rocks, and split them too: I! and a world of **PIKES PASSE THROUGH**.

d.1663. SANDERSON, *Works*, ii. 45. Neither John's mourning nor Christ's piping can **PASS THE PIKES**.

1675. HACKET, *Transfig.* (3rd Ser.). There were many **PIKES TO BE PASSED THROUGH**, a complete order of afflictions to be undergone.

TO GIVE THE PIKE, *verb. phr.* (old).—To dismiss: see **BAG** and **SACK**.

PIKE I (or **PRIOR PIKE**), *intj.* (schools').—An assertion of prior claim or privilege; **BAGS** (or **BAGS I**).

PIKER, *subs.* (common).—1. See **PIKE**, *subs.* 1 and *verb.* 3.

2. (Australian).—Wild cattle.

PIKESTAFF, *subs.* (venery).—The *penis*: see **PRICK**.

See **PLAIN**.

2. (old).—A person of ripe age:
see ANTIQUE.

d. 1605. STOW [Century]. He will soon
be a PEELED GARLIC like myself.

PILGRIM, *subs.* (American).—1. See
quot.

1875. L. SWINBURNE [in *Scribner's
Monthly*, II. 508]. PILGRIM and 'tender-
foot' were formerly applied almost ex-
clusively to newly imported cattle, but
by a natural transference they are usually
used to designate all new-comers, tourists,
and business-men.

2. (Western American).—In
pl. = cattle on the drive.

1889. ROOSEVELT, *Ranch Life*.
PILGRIMS . . . that is animals driven up
on the range from the South, and therefore
in poor condition.

PILGRIM'S-SALVE, *subs. phr.* (old).
—Excrement; SHIT (*q.v.*).—
GROSE (1785).

1679. *Mod. Account of Scotland*
[*Harl. Misc.*, vi. 137]. The whole pave-
ment is PILGRIM-SALVE, most excellent to
liquor shoes withal, and soft and easy for
the bare-footed perambulators.

PILGRIM'S - STAFF, *subs. phr.*
(venery).—The penis: see PRICK.

PILL, *subs.* (common).—1. A black
balloting ball: see BLACKBALL.
Also as *verb.* = to reject by ballot.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xxx.
He was coming on for election at Bays,
and was as nearly PILLED as any man I
ever knew in my life.

1901. *Free Lance*, 27 Ap., 74, 1. The
ex-acrobat, as every one knows, was badly
PILLED—some people being malicious
enough to say that, although he had a
proposer and a seconder, there was not a
single white ball!

2. (common).—A disagreeable
or objectionable person; a BORE
(*q.v.*): also of events—'A BITTER
PILL.'

a. 1556. UDALL, *Luke IV.* [Century].
Yet cannot thei abyde to swallow down
the holsome PILLE of viritie, being bitter
in their mouths.

1580. LVLV, *Euphues*, 468. Think-
ing . . . that the time was past to wo[ol]e
hir . . . I digested the PILL which had
almost [choakt] me.

1595. SHAKESPEARE, *Two Gentlemen*,
ii. 4. *Val.* O, flatter me; for love delights
in praises. *Pro.* When I was sick you
gave me BITTER PILLS, And I must
minister the like to you.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUT-
LEDGE], 191. This decision was a BITTER
PILL for me to swallow.

c. 1801. JEFFERSON, *To Madison* [BAN-
CROFT, *Hist. Const.*, I. 430. He said the
renunciation of this interest was a BITTER
PILL which they could not swallow.

1897. MAUGHAM, *'Lisa of Lambeth*,
iii. Well, you are a PILL.

3. (common).—A drink; a GO
(*q.v.*): see DRINKS.

4. (American).—A bullet: also
BLUE-PILL (*q.v.*).

18 [?] *Drake's Mag.*, 'He Died
Game' [S. J. and C.]. He had always
told him he'd run plumb ag'in' a PILL
some day if he wan't blanked careful like.

Verb. 1. See *subs.* 1.

2. (University).—To twaddle;
to talk platitudes.

THE PILLS, *subs. phr.* (mili-
tary).—The Royal Army Medical
Corps. Also "The Licensed
Lancers"; "The Poulitice Wal-
lopers"; and "The Linseed
Lancers." Also (generally) PILLS
= a doctor or surgeon.

1899. *Cassell's Saturday Journal*,
15 March, 1, 1. "PILLS, are they all mad
on board that vessel, or merely drunk, as
usual?"

TO GILD THE PILL, *verb. phr.*
(colloquial).—To sweeten a bitter
thing. soften a hard thing, beautify
an ugly thing, explain away a
sure thing; to present the in-
evitable as though it were op-
tional: TO GAMMON (*q.v.*). Also
PILL.

1612. WEBSTER, *White Devil*, iii. 2. I discern poison under your GILDED PILLS.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas*, iv. iii. I . . . began to GILD THE PILL, and . . . prove that this mad project was no more than an agreeable frolic. *Ibid.* iv. vii. The good old man . . . GILDED THE PILL I was to swallow with a present of fifty ducats.

1899. *Critic*, 8 Ap., 3, 2. He quotes Goldsmith, then himself; his desire being to GILD THE PILL.

TO PILL AND POLL, *verb. phr.* (old). — To pillage and strip: specifically in modern usage (thieves'), to cheat a comrade of his REGULARS (*q.v.*): Fr. *faire l'esgard*. Whence (POLL-THIEF, or POLLER) = (1) a thief; and (2) an informer.

d. 1529. SKELTON [DYCE, *Works*, ii. 29]. With POLLVNG and shaving. *Ibid.* [i. 204]. Like voluptuous harlots, that . . . to haue their goodes, presenteth to them their beddes, for to take their carnall desires, and after they haue taken all their disportes, they FILL them as an onion. *Ibid.*, *Manner of World*, 147. So many baudes and POLLERS, Sawe I never. *Ibid.*, *Colin Clout*, 362. By POOLVNGE and FYLLAGE In cytyes and vyllage.

1548. HALL, *Union* [HALLIWELL]. And haue wynked at the POLLVNG and extortion of hys unmeasurable officers.

d. 1577. GASCOIGNE, b. 3 b. [NARES]. Because they FILL AND POLL, because they wrest.

1587. HOLLINSHED, *Hist. Ireland*, F7, col. 22. Kildare did use to FILL AND POLL his friendes, tenants, and reteyners.

1596. SPENSER, *Faerie Queene*, v. ii. 6. Which POLS and PILS the poor in piteous wise.

1597. SHAKESPEARE, *Rich. II.*, ii. 1. The Commons he hath PILL'D With grievous taxes, and quite lost their hearts. *Ibid.*, *Rich. III.*, i. Hear me, you wrangling pirates, that fell out In sharing that which you have PILL'D from me.

1600. W. KEMP, *Nine Days' Wonder* [ARBER, *English Garner*, vii. p. 37]. One that would POL his father, Derick his dad! do anything, how ill soever, to please his apish humour!

1610. *Mirr. for Magistrates*, 279. The prince thereby presumed his people for TO FILL. *Ibid.* 467. Can FILL, AND POLL, and catch before they crave. *Ibid.* They would not bear such POLLING.

1621. BURTON, *Anatomy of Mel.*, 41. Great man in office may securely rob whole provinces, undo thousands, FILL AND POLL.

d. 1626. BACON, *Judicature* [quoted in *Century* from edition 1887]. Neither can justice yield her fruit with sweetness among the briars and brambles of catching and POLLING clerks and ministers.

1648. HERRICK, *Hesperides*, 'Duty to Tyrants.' Doe they first FILL thee? next, pluck off thy skin?

1675. CROWNE, *Country Wit*, ii. . . . 'Tis a rare thing to be an absolute Prince, and have rich subjects. Oh, how one may FILL 'em and POLL 'em.

1893. EMERSON, *Lippo*, v. I spose he wants to accuse us of POLLING—a thing I never done in my life, and I know my other pals are as straight as darts. *Ibid.*, vi. I have often met honourable robbers since like the POLLER.

PILLAR. *See* POST.

PILL-BOX, *subs. phr.* (common).—A small brougham.

1857. DICKENS, *Little Dorrit*, xxviii. She drove into town in a one-horse carriage, irreverently called at that period of English history, a PILL-BOX.

2. (common).—A soldier's cap.

3. (American).—A revolver or gun. Also PILL-BOTTLE. *See* MEAT-IN-THE-POT.

PILL-DRIVER (-MONGER or -PEDDLER).—An itinerant apothecary: *see* TRADES and PROFESSIONS.

1763. FOOTE, *Mayor of Garret*, i. There has, Major, been here an impudent PILL-MONGER, who has dar'd to scandalise the whole body of the bench.

PILLOCK (PILLOCK or PILICOCK), *subs.* (venery).—1. The penis: *see* PRICK. Hence PILLOCK-HILL = the female *pudendum*. Also (BURNS and JAMIESON) PILLIE.

[?]. *Reliq. Antiq.*, ii. 211. Ye ne may no more of love done, Mi PILCOC pisseth on my schone.

1539. LYNDSEY, *Thrie Estaitis*, l. 4419. Methink my PILLOCK will nocht ly down.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*, *Dolcemelle* . . . Also taken for a mans PILCOCK.

1605. SHAKSPEARE, *King Lear*, iii. iv. *Edg.* PILLOCK sat on Pillicock-hill.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Turelurean* and *Vitault*, a PILLOCK, a man's yarde.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. xi. Very pleasantly would pass their time in taking you know what between their fingers and dandling it . . . One of them would call it her PILLOCK, her fiddle-diddle, her staff of love, &c.

1719. DUFFEY, *Wit and Mirth*, Song. When PILLOCK came to his lady's toe.

d.1796. BURNS, *Merry Muses* . . . He followed me baith out and in, Wit a stiff standin' PILLIE.

1879. DAVENPORT ADAMS, *Shakespeare's Works* [Howard ed., p. 1216]. Note on PILLOCK . . . Lear's mention of his *pelican* daughters suggests this word—a cant term of familiar licentiousness—to Edgar.

2. (obs.).—An endearment.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*, 382. A prime-cocke, a PILLOCKE, a darlin, a beloved lad.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Vitault*. A great toole, or one that has a good toole, also a flattering word for a young boy like our my pretty PILLOCKE.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. xli. By my faith, saith Ponocrates, I cannot tell, my PILLOCK, but thou art more worth than gold.

PILLORY, *subs.* (old).—1. A baker : see TRADES and PROFESSIONS.—B. E. (c.1696).

2. (old : now recognised).—See quot.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PILLORY . . . also a Punishment mostly heretofore for Beggars, now for Perjury, Forgery and suborned Persons.

PILLOW-MATE, *subs. phr.* (common).

—1. A wife ; and (2) a whore : see DUTCH and TART.

PILL-PATE, *subs.* (old).—A friar ; a shaveling.

d.1570. BECON, *Works*, ii. 315. These smeared PILL-PATES, I would say prelates, first of all accused him, and afterward pronounced the sentence of death upon him.

PI-MAN. See P1, *adj.*

PIMGINNIT, *subs.* (old).—'A large, red, angry Pimple.'—B. E. (c.1696). Cf. Old Saying, 'Nine PIMGENETS make a pock royal.'

1694. DUNTON, *Ladies Dict.* [NARES]. Is it not a manly exercise to stand licking his lips into rubies, panting his cheeks into cherries, parching his PIMGINITS, carbuncles, and buboes.

PIMP, *subs.* (common).—1. A pander ; a cock-bawd : also PIMP-WHISKING (see quot. 1696). Hence as *verb.* = to procure.—B. E. (c.1696) ; GROSE (1785).

1638. FORD, *Fancies*, i. 2. 'Tis a gallant life to be an old lord's PIMP-WHISKIN : but beware of the porter's lodge for carrying tales out of the school.

1681. DRYDEN, *Absalom and Achit.*, i. 81. But when to sin our biased nature leans, The careful Devil is still at hand with means, And providently PIMPS for ill desires.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PIMP. *Ibid.* PIMP-WHISKING, a Top Trader that way ; also a little mean-spirited narrow-soul'd Fellow.

d.1742. BAILEY, *Erasmus*, 'The Profane Feast.' Go hang yourself, you PIMP.

1890. *Century Dict.*, s.v. PIMP. This explanation [Skeats] is, however, inadequate ; the word is apparently of low slang origin, without any recorded basis.

2. (old).—See quotes.

1724-7. DEFOE, *Tour through Gr. Britain*, i. 138. Here they make those faggots . . . used in taverns in London to light their fagots, and are called . . . by the woodmen PIMPS.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet*, i. 4. I do not set my life at a PIN's fee.

[?]. *Sir Andrew Barton* [CHILD, *Ballads*, vii. 206]. And tho' he cared not a PIN for him and his company.

1633. MARMYON, *Fine Compan.*, ii. i. 68. I do not care a PIN for her.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* [Works (1725), 90]. But neither by the Nap, nor Tearing, Was it a PIN the worse for wearing.

c.1707. DURFEE, *Pills* (1707), ii. 112. For her Favour I CARE NOT A PIN.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversation*, i. Here's a PIN for that Lye; I'm sure Lyars had need of good Memories.

d.1796. BURNS, *Poems* (Globe), 80. My memory's no worth a PREEN.

1886-96. MARSHALL, 'Pomes' from the *Pink 'Un* ['Boycotting the Author'], 44. Not caring a PIN if the lotion was whiskey or unsweetened gin.

1887. STEVENSON, *Underwoods*, 'The Scotsman's Return.' A bletherin' clan, no worth a PREEN, As bad as Smith o' Aiberdeen.

1890. BOLDREWOOD, *Squatter's Dream*, 157. For two PINS I'd put a match in every gunyah on the place.

4. (old: now recognised).—A measure containing four-and-a-half gallons, or the eighth part of a barrel.—B. E. (c.1696).

Verb. (thieves').—To steal; TO NAB (*q.v.*).

PHRASES:—TO BE DOWN PIN = to be out of sorts; TO PUT IN THE PIN = to stop, arrest, or pull up: as a habit or indulgence; TO PIN ONESELF ON ANOTHER = to hang on; TO PIN DOWN (OR TO THE GROUND) = (1) to secure, (2) to make sure, and (3) to attack with no chance of escape; PINNED TO A WIFE'S TAIL = petticoat-led; TO PIN ONE'S FAITH TO (OR UPON ONE'S SLEEVE) = to trust implicitly: see also BOTTLE; MERRY-PIN; NICK.

PIN-BASKET, *subs. phr.* (old).—The youngest child.—GROSE (1785).

PIN-BUTTOCK, *subs. phr.* (old).—A bony rump: with bones like pins pricking: the reverse of BARGE-ARSE (*q.v.*).

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *All's Well*, ii. 2, 18. It is like a barber's chair that fits all buttocks, the PIN-BUTTOCK, the quatch-buttock, the brawn-buttock, or any buttock.

PIN-CASE (OR -CUSHION), *subs. phr.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: cf. PIN, *subs.* 2: see MONOSYLLABLE.

PINCH, *subs.* (common).—1. A dilemma; a critical situation; a scrape. Whence, TO COME TO THE PINCH = to face the situation; AT A PINCH = 'upon a push or exigence'.—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

d.1486. BERNERS, *Froiss. Chron.*, ii. cxviii. AT A FYNCH a frend is knowen.

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*, iii. 1. O, the wit of a woman when she is put TO THE PINCH.

1613. SELDEN, *Drayton's Polyolb.*, xviii. 735. The Norman IN THIS narrow PINCH, not so willingly as wisely, granted the desire.

1647. FLETCHER, *Hum. Lieut.*, iv. 4. I can lie yet, And swear, too, AT A PINCH.

1704. SWIFT, *Tale of a Tub*, i. Where THE PINCH lay I cannot certainly affirm.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 433. If you want my purse, come and take it: it will not fail you AT A PINCH.

1880. GLOVER, *Racing Life*, 38. It's one of the deadiest PINCHES ever known. I guy or hook it, skedaddle or absquatulate.

2. (racing).—A certainty.

1896-96. MARSHALL, 'Pomes' from the *Pink 'Un* ['Honest Bill'], 50. The race would be a PINCH, Sir, barring accident or spill.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, l. xlvii. PINCHPENNY said to him . . . we are here very ill provided of victuals.

1690. CROWNE, *Eng. Friar*, ii. 1. 'We are my Lady PINCH-GUT's men Sir.' . . . 'Her men? no, her mice. We live on crumbs.'

1821. SCOTT, *Pirate*, vi. If this house be strewed in ruins before morning where would be the world's want in the . . . niggardly PINCHCOMMONS by which it is inhabited.

1883. CLARK RUSSELL, *Sailor's Language*, s.v. PINCHGUT. A mean parser.

PINCH-BOARD, *subs. phr.* (American).—A swindling roulette table: see **PINCH**, *verb.*

PINCH-BOTTOM (-BUTTOCK, or -CUNT), *subs. phr.* (venery).—A whoremaster: see **MUTTON-MONGER**.

PINCHER, *subs. phr.* (political American).—A legislative measure calculated to secure a pecuniary reward to those interested in its rejection.

See **PINCH**, *verb.*, and **PINCH-BELLY**.

PINCH-GUT-MONEY, *subs. phr.* (old).—See *quot.*

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PINCH-GUT-MONEY, allowed by the King to the Seamen, that Serve on Bord the Navy Royal, when their Provision falls Short; also in long Voyages when they are forced to Drink Water instead of Beer.

PINCH-PRICK, *subs. phr.* (venery).—1. A whore; and (2) a wife that insists on her dues.

PINCH-WIFE, *subs. phr.* (venery).—A vigilant and churlish husband.

PINCUSHION. See **PIN-CASE**.

PINEAPPLE, *verb.* (American).—To close-shave; to 'county-crop'; TO SHINGLE (*q.v.*).

PINE-TOP, *subs. phr.* (American).—Common whiskey: see **OLD MAN'S MILK**.

PINE-TREE MONEY, *subs.* (old American).—Money coined in Massachusetts in 17th century: as bearing a figure resembling a pine-tree.—**BARTLETT**.

PINE-TREE STATE, *subs. phr.* (American).—Maine. [From its extensive pine forests.]

1888. *Boston Transcript*. The good old **PINE-TREE STATE** is pretty well represented . . . scarcely a town of any size . . . but what contains one or more Maine men.

PINK, *subs.* (old).—1. A beauty: hence (2) a pattern or model: as a woman of fashion, a well-groomed man, the pick of the litter, a champion at sport, &c.—**GROSE** (1785).

1595. SHAKESPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, ii. 4, 4. I am the very **PINK** of courtesy.

1602. BRETON, *Wonders*, 7. He had a pretty **PINCKE** to his own wedded wife.

1621. FLETCHER, *Pilgrim*, 1, 2. This is the prettiest pilgrim, The **PINK** of pilgrims.

1693. CONGREVE, *Old Batchelor*, ii. 1. I am happy to have obliged the Mirrour of Knighthood and **PINK** of Courtesie in the age.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversation*, i. *Miss*. Oh! Mr. *Neverout*; every body knows that you are the **PINK** of Courtesy.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, ii. 1. The lady and her scullion—the **PINK** of the ton and his "rain-bow"— . . . they are "all there."

1827. LYTTON, *Palham*, xl. Now, reely, Mr. Ritson, you, who are the **PINK** of feeshion, ought to know better than I can.

3. (American cadet).—A bad report, *e.g.*, 'There are several **PINKS** against you.' Also as *verb.*

4. (hunting).—A hunting coat : commonly SCARLET (*q.v.*). Also a hunting man (as wearing PINK).

1857. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-days*, i. iv. The PINKS stand about the inn door lighting cigars and waiting to see us start.

1860. *Macm. Mag.*, 16. With pea-coats over their PINKS.

Verb. (old).—1. To put home a rapier's point. Also, as *subs.* = a wound so made.—B. E. (*c.*1696); GROSE (1785).

1598. JONSON, *Ev. Man in His Humour*, iv. 1. I will PINK your flesh full of holes with my rapier for this.

1607. MIDDLETON, *Five Gallants*, iii. 5. A freebooter's PINK, sir, three or four inches deep.

1778. DARBLAY, *Evellina*, lxxxiii. Lovel . . . you must certainly PINK him; you must not put up with such an affront.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf, etc.*, s.v. NOB. 'Josh paid his respects . . . to the Vokel's nob.' 'His nob was PINKED all over,' *i.e.* marked in sundry places.

2. (American thieves').—To convict : as a result of perjury or cross-examination to one's prejudice.

3. (tailors').—To make carefully, even exquisitely.

4. (pugilists').—To get home easily and often.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Cribb*, 'The Milling Match.' And muns and noddle PINK'D in every part.

1823. BEE, *Dict. Turf*, s.v. PINK [of Jim Belcher's method]. I felt myself suddenly PINKED all over . . . no blow of finishing importance, to be sure, but all conducting toward victory.

DUTCH PINK, *subs. phr.* (pugilists').—Blood : *cf.* CLARET.

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*, II. 31. That'll take the bark from your nozzle, and distill the DUTCH PINK for you, won't it?

PINKING-DINDER, *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. PINKING-DINDER. A sweater or mohawk. *Irish*.

PINK-SPIDERS, *subs. phr.* (common).—Delirium tremens; GALLON-DISTEMPER (*q.v.*).

PINKY, *subs.* (Scots' and American).—The little finger : also anything little ; the smallest candle, the weakest beer, etc.

PIN-MONEY, *subs. phr.* (old colloquial).—An allowance to a woman for pocket expenses : originally to a married woman by her husband, either by settlement or gift [GROSE, 1785]. Also (modern) the proceeds of adultery or occasional prostitution.

1673. WYCHERLEY, *Gentleman Dancing Master* [LEIGH HUNT, *Old Dramatists*, 67]. 'But what allowance?' . . . 'Stay let me think! first for advance MONEY, five hundred pounds for PINS.'

1703. STEELE, *Tender Husband*, i. 1. The main article with me is, that foundation of wives' rebellion, and husbands' cuckoldom—that cursed PIN-MONEY.

1705. VANBRUGH, *Confederacy*, iv. But then, sir, her coach-hire, her chair-hire, her PIN-MONEY, her play-money, her china, and her charity would consume peers.

1718. HEARNE, *Diary*, 29 Aug. Mr. Calvert tells me, that the late princess of Orange (wife of him that they call King William III.) had fifty thousand pounds per annum for PIN MONEY (as they commonly call ordinary pocket-money).

d.1719. ADDISON, *Ladies Association* [Century]. They have a greater interest in property than either maids or wives, and do not hold their jointures by the precarious tenure of portions or PIN-MONEY.

1901. *D. Telegraph*, 13 Nov., 6, 3. I was to take a profit of 2s. or 2s., his explanation being that he would like to give his wife a little 'PIN' MONEY.

PINNACE, *subs.* (old).—A bawd; a prostitute: *see* TART. Also (quots. 1607 and 1693) = a woman; a **PIECE** (*q.v.*).

[?]. *Songs of the London Prentices*, 66. For when all the gallants are gone out o' th' town, O then these fine PINNACES lack their due lading.

1607. DEKKER and WEBSTER, *Northward Hoe*, v. 1. There is as pretty a little PINNACE struck sail hereby, and come in lately!—she's my kinswoman . . . her portion three thousand . . . her hopes better.

1614. *Bartholomew Fair*, i. 1. She hath been before me—punk, PINNACE and bawd—any time these two and twenty years, upon record in the Pie-Poudres.

1693. CONGREVE, *Old Bachelor*, v. 7. A goodly PINNACE, richly laden . . . Twelve thousand pounds and all her rigging, besides what lies concealed under hatches.

PINNER (or **PINNY**), *subs.* (old colloquial).—A pinafore.

1672. WYCHERLEY, *Love in a Wood*, iii, 2. Pish! give her but leave to gape, rub her eyes, and put on her day PINNER.

[?]. *The Crafty Miller* (NARES). With a suit of good PINNERS pray let her be drest, And when she's in bed let all go to rest.

1681. RADCLIFFE, *Ovid Travestie*, 5. My hair's about my ears, as I'm a sinner He has not left me worth a hood or PINNER.

1705. *The London Ladies Dressing Room* (NARES). The cinder wench, and oyster drab, With Nell the cook, and hawking Bab, Must have their PINNERS brought from France.

1886. F. LOCKER, *Piccadilly* [quoted in *Century*]. When, poor bantling! down she tumbled, daubed her hands, and face, and PINNY.

1901. *Referee*, 14 Ap., 9, 2. Hundreds of tiny toddlers in their white PINNIES and their little bows of pink and blue were dancing together to a piano-organ.

PINNER-UP, *subs. phr.* (tramps').—A vendor of broadside songs and ballads. [They are usually PINNED-UP on canvas against a wall.]

PINNIPE, *subs.* (American thieves').—A crab. Hence PINNIPED = sideways; crab fashion. [The Pinnipedia are fin-footed animals.]

PINNOCK. TO BRING PINNOCK TO PANNOCK, *verb. phr.* (old colloquial).—*See* quot.

1552. HULOET . . . Bryngesomethynge to nothyng, as the vulgare speache is, TO BRYNGE FYNNOCK TO PANNOCK.

PIN-PANNIERLY-FELLOW, *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

. . . Kennett *M.S.* [HALLIWELL]. A PIN-PENNIBBLE fellow, a covetous miser that pins up his baskets or panniers, or that thinks the loss of a pin to be a pain and trouble to him.

PINS-AND-NEEDLES, *subs. phr.* (common).—The tingling which accompanies the recovery of circulation in a benumbed limb.

1876. G. ELIOT, *Deronda*, lxiii. A man . . . may tremble, stammer, and show other signs of recovered sensibility no more in the range of his acquired talents than PINS AND NEEDLES after numbness.

PIN'S-HEAD. TO LOOK FOR A PIN'S-HEAD IN A CARTLOAD OF HAY, *verb. phr.* (old).—To attempt the impossible. Whence to FIND A PIN'S-HEAD, &c. = to achieve wonders. *See* BOTTLE.

1565. CALPHILL, *Martials Tr. o' Cross* [Parker Soc.], 173.

PINSRAP, *subs.* (back slang).—A parsnip.

PINT, *subs.* (tailors').—Recommendation; praise.

PINTS ROUND! *inj.* (tailors').—A fine imposed upon a cutter for dropping his shears: nearly obsolete.

PINTLE, *subs.* (venery).—The *penis*: see PRICK. Whence **PINTLE-BIT** (or **-MAID**) = a mistress or **KEEP** (*q.v.*); **PINTLE-BLOSSOM** = a chancre; **PINTLE-FEVER** = a clap or pox; **PINTLE-MERCHANT** (or **-MONGER**) = a harlot; **PINTLE-RANGER** (or **-FANCIER**) = a wanton; **PINTLE-CASE** = the female *pudendum*: see **MONOSYLLABLE**.—**BAILEY** (1728); **HALLIWELL** (1844). Also **PINTLE-KEEK** (Scots') = a leer of invitation.

13 [7]. *Sloane MS.*, 2584, 50. [A receipt] for bolnyng of **PYNTELVS**.

14 [7]. *MS. Med. Rec.*, xv. century. For sore **PYNTELLES** Take lynchede . . . with sweet mylke . . . make a plaster, and ley to, and anyoynte . . . till he be whole.

1598. **FLORIO**, *Worlds of Wordes*, s.v. **Cassomarino**, a **PINTLE-FISH**.

1749. **ROBERTSON** of **STIRAN**, *Poems*, 82. So to a House of Office straight A School-Boy does repair, To ease his Postern of its Weight, And fr— his P— there.

1785. **C. HANBURY WILLIAMS**, *Odes*, To L—d L—n, 112. With whores be lewd, With Whigs be hearty, And both in (**PINTLE**) and in party, Confess your noble race.

c.1786. **CAPTAIN MORRIS**, *The Plenipotentiary*. She spread its renown through the rest of the town, As a **PINTLE** past all understanding.

d.1796. **BURNS**, *Merry Muses*, 'Nine Inch Will Please a Lady.' We'll add two thumb-breads to the nine And that's a sonsie **PINTLE**. *Ibid.*, **BURNS**, *Godly Girsie*. But ay she glowr'd up to the moon, And ay she sigh'd . . . I trust my heart's in Heaven about, Where 'er your sinful **PINTLE** be. *Ibid.* (old), *For a That and a That*. A **PINTLE** like a rolling-pin: She nicker'd when she saw that.

PIONEER-OF-NATURE, *subs. phr.* (venery).—The *penis*: see PRICK.

1652. **URQUHART**, *Rabelais*, l. xi. And some . . . women . . . give these names, my Roger, my . . . **PIONEER** . . . lusty live sausage . . . my rump-splitter.

PIP, *subs.* (gaming).—1. A spot on dice or playing cards.—**BAILEY** (1728). [A corruption of *picks* = (O.E.) 'diamond' and (sometimes) 'spade': from old Fr. *picque* = a spade.]

2. (old).—The pox: see **FRENCH DISEASE**: hence **PIPPED** = poxed.

1584. **MONDAY**, *Weakest to the Wall*, iii. 5. Do not you pray that the **PIP** may catch the people, and that you may earn many groats for making graves?

1622. **DEKKER** and **MASSINGER**, *Virgin Martyr*, ii. 1. Therein thou shewed'st thyself a perfect demi-christian too, to let the poor beg, starve, and hang, or die of the **PIP**.

1670. **RAY**, *Proverbs* [BOHN], 172. As much need of it as he has of the **PIP**, or a cough.

Verb. (club).—To blackball; TO **PILL** (*q.v.*).

1880. **HUTH**, *Buckle*, l. 252. If **Buckle** were **PIPPED**, they would do the same to every clergyman.

1892. *Punch's Model Music-hall Songs*, 20. And what his little game is, he'll let us perceive, And he'll **PIP** the whole lot of 'em, so I believe.

2. (gaming).—To take a trick from an opponent.

TO **HAVE** (or **GET**) THE **PIP**, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To be depressed, or out of sorts: see **HUMP**.

1886-96. **MARSHALL**, 'Pomes' from the *Pink 'Un* ['The Luxury of Doing Good'], 41. It cost a bit to square up the attack; For the landlord **HAD** THE **PIP**.

PIPE (or **PIPERS**), *subs.* (old).—1. Generic for the vocal organs; and (2) the voice: *in pl.* = the lungs. Hence as *verb.* = (1) to talk; and (2) to cry: also TO **PIPE UP**, TO **TAKE A PIPE**, TO

TUNE ONE'S PIPES, and TO PIPE ONE'S EYE. Hence, TO SHUT (or PUT) UP THE PIPES = to be silent. Also, PIPER = a broken-winded horse; a ROARER (*q.v.*).

1383. CHAUCER, *Canterbury Tales* [SKEAT], l. 2752. The PYFES of his longes gonne to swelle.

c.1400. *Towneley Myst.* [Camden Soc.], 103. Who is that PYFYS so poore?

1560. PILKINGTON, *Sermons* [Parker Soc.], 601. If that were true, physicians might put up their PIPES.

1579-80. LVLV, *Euphues*, 278. Hee also strayned his olde PYFE, and thus beganne . . .

d.1663. SANDERSON, *Works*, il. 45. Neither John's mourning nor Christ's PIPING can pass the pikes.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas*, l. v. I happened one day to scratch myself, upon which, SETTING UP MY PIPES, as if he had flayed me my mother . . . turned my master out of doors.

1772. *Burlesque Trans. Homer*, ix. 392. His wife came last, and rubbed her eye, Then TUN'D HER PIPES. *Ibid.*, ii., 72. Sink me, says one, there hardly PIPES A braver fellow than Ulysses.

1790. DIBDIN, *Song*. Why, what's that to you if my eyes I'm a PIPING, A tear is a comfort, d'ye see, in its way.

[?]. *Brownie of Bodsbeck*, il. 155. He's coming, poor fellow—he's TAKIN A PIPE to himsel at the house-end—his heart—is as soft as a snaw-ba'.

1825. JONES, *Song*, 'True Bottom'd Boxer' [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 93]. With ogles and smellers, no PIPING and chiming.

1829. *The Prigging Lay* [Vidocq's *Mem.*, iv.]. There's a time to PIPE, and a time to snivel.

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, xxxii. He had got it into his head that his own peculiar mission was TO PIPE HIS EYE; which he did perpetually.

d.1845. HOOD, *Faithless Sally Brown*. He heav'd a bitter sigh, And then began to eye his pipe, And then TO PIPE HIS EYE.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, 88. Nance is called to oblige with a song. She is shy . . . But the Amazon brings her forward with a stern 'PIPE UP, yer blessid little fool.'

3. (Scots').—*In pl.* = the bag-pipes. Hence TO TUNE ONE'S PIPES = to talk or write.

4. (old).—A boot: see TROTTER-CASES.—VAUX (1819).

5. (venery).—The female *pu-dendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

Verb. (old).—See *subs.* 1 and 2.

3. (American).—To waylay; to intercept.

4. (thieves').—To watch; to spy. Also TO PIPE OFF. *Fr. allumer*. See NARK. Whence PIPER = a spy.

1886-96. MARSHALL, '*Pomes*' from the *Pink 'Un* ['Nobbed'], 115. I waited to PIPE OFF the fun.

1898. *Pink 'Un and Pelican*, 87. His mission up there on the roof was to exclude . . . any who sought to PIPE OFF the contest through the skylight.

1888. SIMS [*Referee*, 12 Feb.]. If I PIPE a good chat, why I touch for the wedge.

1899. *Daily Telegraph*, 7 Ap., 8, 3. Then, King Kid. You PIPED him. There's a child o' sin, now.

THE QUEEN'S PIPE, *subs. phr.* (common).—The kiln in the great East Vault of the Wine-Cellars of the London Docks, where useless and damaged goods that have paid no duty are burnt: as regards tobacco a thing of the past, stuff of this kind being distributed to workhouses, &c.

1871. *Echo*, 27 Jan. All that was not sold will be burnt, according to custom, in HER MAJESTY'S TOBACCO PIPE. We cannot think such waste justifiable.

1899. *Daily Mail*, 21 Mar., 3, 3. Tea for the QUEEN'S PIPE. Five hundred and eighty-two half-chests of tea were seized by the sanitary authorities of the Port of London.

TO PUT ONE'S PIPE OUT, *verb. phr.* (common).—1. To spoil sport or a chance; 'to take the shine out'; and (2) to kill: see LIGHT. *Fr. casser sa pipe*.

PUT THAT IN YOUR PIPE AND SMOKE IT, *phr.* (common).—A straight rebuke; 'digest that if you can.' *Fr. mets ça dans ta poche et ton mouchoir par dessus. See TAKE.*

1824. PEAKE, *Americans Abroad*, i. 1. *Dow. (writes.)* "No tobacco allowed in England." There—*(shuts book.)* PUT THAT IN YOUR PIPE AND SMOKE IT. There's another slap at 'em!

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick* (1857), p. 6. Pull him up—PUT THAT IN HIS PIPE—like the flavour—damned rascals! And with a lengthened string of similar broken sentences . . . the stranger led the way to the travellers' waiting room.

1840. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends (Lay of S. Odille)*. For this you've my word, and I never yet broke it. So PUT THAT IN YOUR PIPE, my Lord Otto, AND SMOKE IT!

1883. MISS BRADDON, *Golden Calf*, ch. xix. Ah, then he'll have to PUT HIS LOVE IN HIS PIPE AND SMOKE IT! That kind of thing won't do out of a French novel.

TO PIPE ANOTHER DANCE, *verb. phr.* (old).—To change one's means, or one's course of action or attack.

d.1529. SKELTON, *Colyn Clout* [Brewer]. They would FYPE YOU ANOTHER DAUNCE.

1544. KNOX, *Godly Letter* [Maitland, *Ref.*, 88]. Nowe they haue . . . lerned amongst ladyes TO DAUNSE AS THE DEUILL LVST TO FYPE.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [Routledge], 112. How do I know but my young mistress may caper to a TUNE OF MY PIPING.

TO PIPE IN (OR WITH) AN IVY-LEAF, *verb. phr.* (old).—To busy oneself to no purpose: as a consolation for failure; 'to go whistle,' or 'to blow the buck's horn.' [IVY-LEAF = a thing of small value, as FIG, RUSH, STRAW, &c.].

c.1374. CHAUCER, *Troilus*, v. 1433. But Troilus thou mayst now cast and west PIPE IN AN IVIE LEAFE, if that thee lest.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, l. But on of you, al be him loth or lefe, He mot GON PIPEN IN AN IVY LEFE.

1387-8. [T. Usk], *Test. Love*, iii. vii. [SKEAT], l. 50. Far wel the gairdiner, he may PIPE WITH AN YVE LEAFE, his fruite is failed.

1390. GOWER, *Conf. Aman.*, II. 21. That all nis worth an VVY LEFE.

PIPECLAY, *subs.* (colloquial).—Routine; RED-TAPE (*q.v.*).

Verb. (colloquial).—1. To write out; to settle: as accounts.

1853. DICKENS, *Bleak House*, xvii. You . . . would not understand allusions to their PIPE-CLAYING their weekly accounts.

2. (tailors').—To hide faults of workmanship; or defects in material.

PIPE-LAYER, *subs. phr.* (American).—A political intriguer; a schemer. Hence PIPE-LAYING = scheming or intriguing for political purposes. [BARTLETT: *circa* 1835, a traitorous New York Whig election agent concocted a plot to throw odium on the party, supporting it by correspondence in the form of bogus business letters relating to the Croton water supply then in progress, the number of men hired to vote being spoken of as so many yards of pipe.—*Abridged.*]

1848. *New York Tribune*, 30 Oct. The result of the Pennsylvania election would not be in the least doubtful, if we could be assured of fair play and no PIPE-LAYING.

1856. *New York Herald*, Sep. There is a magnificent scheme of PIPE-LAYING and log-rolling going on in Pennsylvania.

1883. THURLOW WEED, *Autobiography*, 493. Among the Glentworth papers was a letter in which he said that the men sent from Philadelphia were to be employed in laying the pipes for the introduction of Croton water. The Whig leaders were immediately stigmatised as PIPE-LAYERS, a term persistently applied to them for several years.

1888. *San Francisco Weekly Examiner*, 22 Mar. There are not a few who are PIPE-LAVING and marshalling forces for the fray.

PIPE-MERRY, *adj.* and *adv.* (old).
—Merry: as from wine [Which is stored in pipes].

1564. UDAL, *Eras. Apophth.*, 159. Wine deliuereth the harte from all care and thought when a bodie is PIPE MERIE.

PIPER, *subs.* (common).—1. A detective: specifically (in England) an omnibus spy: *see* NARK.

2. *See* PIPE, *subs.* 1.

DRUNK AS A PIPER, *phr.* (old).
—Very drunk: *see* FOU-FOU: *see* FOU and SCREWED.

1772. GRAVES, *Spiritual Quixote*, x. xxix. Jerry . . . proceeded so long . . . in tossing off horns of ale, that he became AS DRUNK AS A PIPER.

TO PAY THE PIPER (or FIDDLER), *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To pay expenses; to assume responsibility. *Fr. payer les violons.*

1695. CONGREVE, *Love for Love*, ii. I warrant you, if he danced till doomsday, he thought I were to PAY THE PIPER.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 69. We will make Doctor Oloroso PAY THE PIPER. . . . There is no reason why the forehead of a physician should be smoother than the brow of an apothecary.

1819. SCOTT, *Ivanhoe*, i. 267. 'I like not that music, father Cedric' . . . 'Nor I either,' said Wamba, 'I greatly fear we shall have to PAY THE PIPER.'

d. 1868. BROUGHAM [quoted in *Century*]. They introduce a new tax, and we shall have to PAY THE PIPER.

1881. CARLYLE, *Miscell.*, iv. 89. Negotiation there now was . . . Dupont de Nemours as daysman between a Colonel and a Marquis, both in high wrath;—Buffière TO PAY THE PIPER.

PIPER'S-CHEEKS, *subs.* (old).—Swollen or puffed cheeks.

1608. WITHAL, *Dictionarie*, 286. That hath bigge or great cheekes, as they tearme them, PIPER'S CHEEKES.

PIPER'S-NEWS, *subs. phr.* (Scots').
—Stale news.

1877. *Perils of Man*, i. 29. 'I came expressly to inform you'—'Came with PIPER'S NEWS,' said the lady; 'which the fidler has told before you.'

PIPER'S-WIFE, *subs. phr.* (old).—A whore: *see* TART.

PIPING HOT, *adv. phr.* (colloquial).
—Very hot.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Miller's Tale', 193. Wafres PIFYNG HOOT, out of the glede.

1530. PALSgrave, *Lang. Francoyse*, s.v.

c. 1600. *London Cries*, 12 [HALLIWELL]. PIPING HOT, smoking hot! What have I got? You have not; Hot grey pease, hot! hot! hot!

1618. MAINWARING, *Letter* [LODGE, *Illus. Brit. Hist.*, iii. 403]. Foure huge brawnie piggs, PIPEING HOTT, bilted and harnised with ropes of sausages.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* [Works (1725), 103]. Yet having now fall'n to his Lot, A good rich Farm lies PIPING HOT.

1698. CONGREVE, *Old Bachelor* [Old Dramatists (1880), 163], iv. 8. She thanked me, and gave me two apples, PIPING HOT out of her under-petticoat-pocket.

1759. GOLDSMITH, *Citizen of the World*, lxxv. A nice pretty bit of ox-cheek, PIPING-HOT, and dressed with a little of my own sauce.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, ii. iii. In rushed Chaffing Peter . . . the oracle of the dustmen, PIPING HOT from the Old Bailey, with an account of one Lummy.

PIPKIN (THE), *subs. phr.* (venery).
—The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE. Hence, TO CRACK A PIPKIN = to deflower.
—GROSE (1785).

1709. WARD, *London Spy*, i. 16. He became one of her earliest suitors, and was very importunate with her to have the CRACKING OF HER PIPKIN.

2. (pugilists').—The head: *see* TIBBY.

1825. JONES, *True Bottom'd Boxer* [*Univ. Songst.*, ii. 96]. At the PIPPIN to point.

PIPPIN. MY PIPPIN, *subs. phr.* (common).—An endearment.

1892. MILLIKEN, *'Arry Ballads*, 23. Take the shine out of some screamers, I tell yer, MY PIPPIN, would Loo.

PIPPIN-SQUIRE. *See* APPLE-SQUIRE.

PIRATE, *subs.* (literary).—1. An infringer of copyright: specifically of publishers, print-sellers, and booksellers, who, without permission, appropriate the work or ideas of an author or artist; a FREEBOOKER. Also as *verb.*: *cf.* BARABBAS, GHOST, JACKAL, &c.

1703. W. KING, *Art of Cookery*, vii. I am told that, if a book is anything useful, the printers have a way of PIRATING on one another, and printing other persons copies: which is very barbarous.

1729. HEARNE, *Diary*, 23 Sep. The said Davis . . . makes it his business to PIRATE books, and hath reprinted something from mine without acknowledgment.

d.1744. POPE [quoted in *Century*]. They advertised they would PIRATE his edition. *Ibid.*, *Letters*, Pref. The errors of the press were . . . multiplied . . . by the avarice and negligence of PIRATICAL printers.

1887. *Shakespeariana*, vi. 105. Meres refers to them [Shakspeare's 'Sonnets'] in 1598 . . . and in 1599 two of them were printed by the PIRATE Jaggard.

1888. *New Princeton Review*, v. 50. We are doing all the PIRATING in these days; the English used to be in the business, but they dropped out of it long ago.

d.1891. LOWELL, *Coleridge* [*Century*]. It was a PIRATED book, and I trust I may be pardoned for the delight I had in it.

2. (venery).—An adulteress: one who chases other women's men: also, conversely, of men.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 222. Lorenza . . . smuggles the surgeon . . . Every evening into her apartment . . . the PIRATE generally stays pretty long upon his cruise.

3. (common).—*See* quot. Now (1902), thanks to police regulations and the imposition of heavy penalties, almost a thing of the past: chiefly applied, without depreciation, to any non "Company" or "Association" vehicle.

1897. *Pall Mall Gas.*, 31 Dec. 5, 3. In 1829 George Shillibeer introduced omnibuses into London, and . . . took care to impress upon every man he employed the importance of politeness towards all passengers. But in 1832 it was noticed that this high standard . . . was not maintained by . . . conductors of the new 'buses running from Paddington to the Bank via Oxford-street. They overcharged passengers, and met protests with abuse. Frequently, when females only were in the 'bus, they brought their journey to an end long before they reached their advertised destination, compelling the passengers to walk a considerable distance after paying their fares. . . . These were the first PIRATE omnibuses. To let the public know which really were his vehicles Shillibeer at once had painted on them "Shillibeer's Original Omnibus." In a few days the same inscription appeared on some of the pirates with the word "not" in very small letters preceding it.

PISHERY-PASHERY, *subs.* (old).—Gabble.

1621. *Shoe-maker's Holy-day* [NARES]. Peace, my fine Firke! stand by with your PISHERY-PASHERY! Away!

PISS, *subs.* (vulgar).—Urine. Also as *verb.* = to urinate. Combinations are many: thus, PISSER = (1) the *penis*, and (2) the female *pudendum*; PISS-BOWL (or POT) = a chamber pot; PISS-BURNT = stained with urine; PISS-MAKER = one given to much liquor; PISS-PROPHET (or KNIGHT OF THR PISS-POT) = a pot-inspecting physician; PISS-POT HALL = (*see* quot. 1785); PISS-FACTORY = a

public house; PISSING-POST (or PISS-DALE)=a urinal; PISS-FIRE = a blusterer; PISS-KITCHEN=a kitchen-maid: PISS-PROUD = of a false *erectio penis*; PISS-QUICK = hot gin-and-water (BEE, 1823); PISSING-CLOUT = a napkin; PISSING = small, mean, brief, as in PISSING-WHILE = a very short time; PISSING-CONDUIT = a conduit with a flow of water like a stream of urine: specifically one near the Royal Exchange set up by John Wels (Lord-mayor, 1430); PISSING-CANDLE = a small make-weight candle; RODS IN PISS = a reckoning in store; TO PISS PURE CREAM (or PINS AND NEEDLES) = to be clapped (GROSE); TO PISS WHEN ONE CAN'T WHISTLE = to be hanged (GROSE); TO PISS MONEY AGAINST THE WALL = to spend money in drink (GROSE); TO PISS DOWN THE BACK = to flatter (GROSE); TO PISS ON A NETTLE = to be peevish or angry; WHEN THE GOOSE PISSETH = never; AS GOOD AS EVER PISSED = as good as may be; TO PISS IN A QUILL = to agree on a course of action; PISS-A-BED = a dandelion: with reference to its diuretic properties; "SO DRUNK THAT HE OPENED HIS SHIRT COLLAR TO PISS" = blind drunk; "the tin-whiffin" = when you cannot sh-t for PISSING; TO PISS HARD (BONES, or CHILDREN) = to be brought to bed; TO PISS BLOOD (URQUHART) = to bleed; TO PISS ONE'S TALLOW = to sweat. Also not a few saws and proverbs — 'As easy PISSING a bed as to lick a dish'; 'As good (or, as very a knave) as ever PISSED'; 'As surly as if he had PISSED on a nettle'; 'By fits and starts as the hog PISSETH'; 'Every

little helps as the old woman said when she PISSED in the sea'; 'Fire! quoth the fox, when he PISSED on the ice'; 'He did me as much good as if he had PISSED in my pottage'; 'He who once a good name gets, May PISS a bed and say he sweats'; 'Let her cry, she'll PISS the less'; 'PISS clear and defy the physician'; 'PISS not against the wind,' or 'He that PISSETH against the wind wets his shirt'; 'He'd have died had he never PISSED or shit'; 'Money will make the pot boil though the devil PISS in the fire'; 'Many excuses PISSES the bed'; 'My horse PISSETH whey, My man PISSETH amber: My horse is for my way, My man is for my chamber'; 'The devil shits and PISSES on a great heap'; 'Such a reason PISSES my goose'; 'You'll be good when the goose PISSETH'; 'He that's afraid of every grass must not PISS in a meadow.' See RACK-OFF.

1356. MANDEVILLE, *Travels*, 242. The moeste Synne that ony man may do is to PISSEN in hire Houses that thei dwellen in.

1362. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman's Vision*, l. 3169. He PISSED a potel in a paternoster-while.

1382. CHAUCER [*SKEAT, Works*, 3798]. This Nicholas was risen for TO PISSE. *Ibid.*, 4215. Sone after this the wyf hir routing feet, An gan awake, and wente hir out TO PISSE. *Ibid.*, 729. That Socrates had with hise wyes two How Xantippa caste PISSE up-on his heed.

1440-99. BLIND HARRY, *Manner of Crying* [LAING, *Scot. Poet.*, ii. 14]. Scho PISCHIT the mekle matter of Forth; Sic tyde ran efter hendir.

1525. TYNDALE, *Tr. Bible*, 1 Sam. xviii. 22. If I leave by the morning light any that PISSETH against the wall.

d. 1529. SKELTON, *Elynour Rummyng*, 370. And as she was drynkynge . . . She PYST where she stood.

1539. LYNDSEY, *Thris Estaitis*, 11. 98. And ye ladies that list to FISCH, Lift up your taill plat in ane disch.

1539. PALSGRAVE, *Lang. Francoyse*, . . . But a FYSSYNGE WHYLE, *tant qu'on auroyt pissé*, or *ce pendant*. *Ibid.*, subst. f. 66. Stale, FYSSÉ, *escloy*.

c.1541. *Scholehouse of Women* [HAZLITT, *E. Pop. Poet.*, iv. 113]. He would not once turn me for to kisse; Every night he riseth for to PISSE. *Ibid.*, 121. A PISSEPOT they brake vpon his pate.

1551. STILL, *Gammer Gurton* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays*, ii. 50]. He shall never be at rest one PISSING-WHILE a day.

1554. UDALL, *Apoph. of Erasmus*, 25. She, beyng moche the more incensed by reason of her husbantes quietnesse and stillnesse, powred doune a PISSEBOLLE vpon hym out of a windore.

c.1555. *Vycheringe of the Masse*, 96. Alacke, for payne I FYSSA.

1575. *Touchstone of Complexion*, 99. Manye men . . . take the matter in as greate snuffe, as they would to be crowned with a FYSSBOLLE.

1594. SHAKESPEARE, *1 Hen. VI.*, iv. 6. I charge and command, that, of the cities cost, The PISSING-CONDUIT run nothing but claret wine, The first year of our reigne.

1595. SHAKESPEARE, *Two Gentlemen*, iv. 3. He had not been there a PISSING-while but all the chamber smelt him.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*, s.v. *Ciangola*. . . Also a PISSE-POT. *Ibid.*, *Pisciatoio*, a PISSING place . . . Also a PIS-POT.

1598. STOWE, *London*, 144. Some distance west is the Royal Exchange—and so downe to the little conduit, called the PISSING-CONDUIT by the stockes market.

1620. FLETCHER, *Women Pleas'd*, i. 2. I shall turn PISSING-CONDUIT shortly [quoath a servant drenched with water].

1623. MABBE, *Gusman* (1630), 240. Master Nicolas hath RODS IN PISSE for you . . . and is plotting how he may be reuenged of thee.

1623. WEBSTER, *Devil's Law Case*, ii. 1. When that your worship has BEPIST yourself, Either with vehemency of argument, Or, being out from the matter.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. On every PISSING-POST their names I'll place.

1632. JONSON, *Magnetic Lady*, i. 7. I shall entreat your mistress . . . to have patience but a PISSING-WHILE.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. v. The PISSING TOOL and urinal vessels shall have nothing of it. *Ibid.*, xi. He PISSED in his shoes, shit in his shirt, and wiped his nose on his sleeve.

1672. LACY, *Dumb Lady*, v. 1. The household . . . paid my worship with their PISSE-POTS out of the garret.

1672. WYCHERLEY, *Love in a Wood*, i. 2. That spark, who has his fruitless designs upon the bed-ridden rich widow, to the sucking heiress in her PISSING-CLOUT.

1672. RAY, *Proverbs*, 206. To stay a PISSING-WHILE.

1676. ETHEREDGE, *Man of Mode*, ii. 1. *Old Bell*. Out, a PISE of their Breeches. *Idem*, v. 2. *Old Bell*. Out, a PISE! (*et passim*).

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* [*Works* (1725), 137]. All at the first that they amiss thought, Was that her Grace had mist the PISSE-POT. *Ibid.*, 126. Therefore I think it not amiss for's To launch, for there are RODS IN PISSE for's.

d.1678. MARVELL, *Poems* [MURRAY], 188. I'll have a council shall sit always still, And give me a license to do what I will; and two secretaries shall PISSE THROUGH A QUILL.

1682. A. RADCLIFFE, *The Ramble*, 86. I roused my doe, and laced her gown, I pinn'd her whisk, and dropt a crown, She piss'd, and then I drove her down, Like thunder.

1694. *Poor Robin* [NARES]. Each PISSING-POST will be almost pasted over with quacks bills.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 67. He crawls up upon Deck to the PISSE-DALE. *Ibid.* (1709), *London Spy*, i. 64. He had provided them a plentiful bowl of PISSE.

1714. LUCAS, *Gamesters*, 71. As he was PISSING at Temple Bar.

1740. NORTH, *Examen*, 70. So strangely did Papist and Fanatic or . . . the Anti-court Party PISSE IN A QUILL; agreeing in all things that tended to create troubles and disturbances.

d.1745. SWIFT, *Miscellanies*, "On the Discovery of the Longitude." Now Ditton and Whiston may both be BE-PISSED on. [*Et passim*.]

1740. ROBERTSON of Struan, *Poems*, 259. Thou drunken sot, go Home and spue, And PISS a Bed, as thou art wont.

1772. *Burlesque Trans. Homer*, 111. 181. But what I mostly fear is this, Some God has steep'd a ROD IN PISS.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. PISS-PROUD . . . The old fellow thought he had an erection, but his prick was only PISS-PROUD; said of any old fellow who marries a young wife. *Ibid.* PISS-BURNED, PISS-MAKER, and PISS-PROPHET. *Ibid.* PISS POT HALL. A house at Clapton, near Hackney, built by the potter chiefly out of the profits of chamber pots, in the bottom of which the portrait of Dr. Sacheverel was depicted.

1821. BYRON, *Occasional Pieces* (ed. 1840), p. 574. Posterity will ne'er survey a nobler grave than this: Here lie the bones of Castlereagh; stop, traveller, &—!

PISTOL, *subs.* (venery). — 1. The *penis*: see PRICK.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *2 Hen. IV.*, ii. 4. *Fal.* Here Pistol . . . do you discharge upon mine hostess. *Pistol.* I will discharge upon her, Sir John, with two bullets. *Fal.* She is PISTOL-PROOF, sir. . . . *Pist.* Then to you Mistress Dorothy. . . . *Dol.* Charge me! . . . you lack-linen mate! Away . . . I am meat for your master.

1623. WEBSTER, *Duchess of Malb.*, ii. 2. *Serv.* There was taken even now a Switzer in the duchess' bed-chamber . . . with a PISTOL in his great cod-piece.

2. (old). — A swaggering bully: see FURIOSO.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Merry Wives*, Dram. Pers. *Bardolph*, PISTOL, *Nym*, sharpers attending on Falstaff. *Ibid.* (1598), *2 Hen. IV.*, ii. 4. *First D.* Sir, Ancient PISTOL's below. *Dol.* Hang him, swaggering rascal! . . . it is the foul-mouthed'st rogue in England.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*, s.v. *Pistolfo* . . . a roguing begger, a cantler, an upright man that liveth by cosenage.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, xlv. He snatched his hat and hanger, and assuming the looks, swagger, and phrase of PISTOL, burst out, &c.

Also see POCKET-PISTOL.

PISTOL-SHOT, *subs. phr.* (common). — A drink; a GO (*q.v.*): see DRINKS and *cf.* POCKET-PISTOL.

PIT, *subs.* (old). — 1. A breast pocket in a coat. Also, a fob. — GROSE (1785); VAUX (1819). Hence PITMAN = a pocket-book.

2. (venery). — The female *pu-dendum*: also BOTTOMLESS PIT, PIT-HOLE, PIT-MOUTH, and PIT OF DARKNESS: see MONOSYLLABLE. Hence, TO LAY PIT AND BOXES (or BACK AND FRONT SHOPS) INTO ONE (see quot. 1785).

d. 1674. HERRICK, *Poems*, 'Cherry-pit.' Julia and I . . . playing for sport at Cherry-pit: . . . I got the PIT, and she the stone.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. PIT. To lay pit and boxes into one; an operation in midwifery or copulation, whereby the division between the anus and vagina is cut through, broken, and demolished: a simile borrowed from the playhouse, when, for the benefit of some favourite player, the pit and boxes are laid together.

3. (old). — See quot. 1696. — GROSE (1785).

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PIT, the hole under the gallows into which those that Pay not the Fee, viz., 6s. 8d., are cast and Buried.

KNIGHT OF THE PIT, *subs. phr.* (old). — A cocker.

TO SHOOT (or FLY) THE PIT, *verb. phr.* (old). — To turn tail [Cocking].

1740. NORTH, *Examen*, 327. The whole nation . . . expressing utmost detestation and abhorrence of the Whig principles, which made the whole party SHOOT THE PIT and retire.

1740. RICHARDSON, *Pamela*, ii. 308. We were all to blame to make madam here FLY THE PIT as she did.

1810. EVANS, l. 23, 'Yorkshire Song.' And there was neither fault nor fray, Nor any disorder any way, But every man did PITCH AND PAY.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, i. 390. PITCHING THE HUNTERS is the three sticks a penny, with the snuff-boxes stuck upon sticks; if you throw your stick, and they fall out of the hole, you are entitled to what you knock off.

1863. *Story of a Lancashire Thief*, Brummagem Joe, a cove as could patter and PITCH THE FORK with any one.

1867. *London Herald*, 23 March, 222, 2. If he had had the sense to appeal for help, and PITCH THEM A TALE, he might have got off.

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*. When Elias was at a pleasure fair, he would PITCH THE HUNTERS, that is, put up the three sticks a penny business.

1901. *Punch*, 25 Dec., 461, 1. We were PITCHING INTO the umpire.

PITCH-AND-FILL, *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—Bill.

PITCHED, *adj. and adv.* (tailors).—CUT (*g.v.*).

PITCHER, *subs.* (venery).—1. The female *pudendum*. Also THE MIRACULOUS PITCHER ('that holds water with the mouth downwards'). Whence, CRACKED-PITCHER = a harlot with a certain pretension to repute; TO CRACK A PITCHER = to deflower. See MONOSYLLABLE. — GROSE (1785).

1672. WYCHERLEY, *Love in a Wood*, iii. 2. My daughter is a girl of reputation, though she has been seen in your company; but . . . she is resolved never more to venture her PITCHER to the well.

1771. SMOLLETT, *Humph. Clinker* [*Works* (1809), iii. 92]. Though my being thought capable of making her a mother might have given me some credit, the reputation of an intrigue with such a CRACKED PITCHER does me no honour at all.

2. (old).—Newgate prison: also the STONE PITCHER or (JUG): see CAGE.—VAUX (1819).

3. (thieves').—See SNIDE-PITCHER.

PITCHERS HAVE EARS! *phr.* (colloquial).—'Listeners may overhear': also (of children) LITTLE PITCHERS HAVE LONG (or GREAT) EARS = What children hear at home soon flies abroad: Fr. *Ce que l'enfant oit au foyer, est bientôt connu jusqu'au Monstier*.—HEYWOOD (1546); BAILEY (1728).

1593. SHAKESPEARE, *Taming of the Shrew*, iv. 4. Not in my house, Lucentio, for, you know PITCHERS HAVE EARS, and I have many servants.

Other colloquialisms are:—TO GET THE SHEARDS AFTER THE PITCHER IS BROKEN (RAY, 1760) = to receive a kindness after others have no need of it, or to get the refuse; TO BANG A PITCHER = to drain a pot. See also CROCUS-PITCHER.

PITCHER-BAWD, *subs. phr.* (old).—See quot.

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PITCHER-BAWD. The poor Hack that runs of Errands to fetch Wenches or Liquor.

PITCHER-MAN, *subs. phr.* (old).—A drunkard; a TICKLE-PITCHER. See LUSHINGTON.

1738. *Poor Robin* [NARES]. For not one shoemaker in ten But are boon blades, true PITCHER-MEN.

PITCH-FINGERS, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—A pilferer: also TARP-FINGERS (*g.v.*). Whence PITCH-FINGERED = thievishly inclined.

PITCHFORK, *subs.* (common).—A tuning-fork.

Verb. (colloquial).—To thrust into a position; to toss, or settle carelessly.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversation*, i. She wears her Cloaths as if they were thrown on her with a PITCHFORK.

1879. *Nineteenth Century*, 277. Your young city curate PITCHFORKED into a rural benefice . . . is the most forlorn . . . of all human creatures.

PITCH-KETTLED, *adj. phr.* (old).—Puzzled; stuck fast; confounded.—GROSE (1785).

d.1800. COWPER, *Ep. to Lloyd*, 32. I fairly find myself PITCH-KETTLED, And cannot see . . . How I shall hammer out a letter.

PITCHPOLE, *verb.* (old colloquial).—1. To sell for double the cost.

2. (schoolboys').—To turn a somersault.

PITCH-UP, *subs. phr.* (Winchester School).—One's home circle; a crowd or knot of people; a set of chums. Hence, to PITCH UP WITH = to associate with.

PIT-HOLE (or **PIT**), *subs.* (colloquial).—A grave. Hence, as *verb.* = to bury.

1607. *Puritan*, i. 2. All my friends were PIT-HOLED, gone to graves.

2. (venery).—See PIT.

PITMAN. See PIT.

PIT-OF-DARKNESS, *subs. phr.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE. Also PIT-MOUTH, and PIT-HOLE.

PITTER-PATTER, *verb.* (common).—To palpitate; to 'go PIT-A-PAT.'

PITTLE-PATTLE. See PIT-A-PAT.

PITT'S-PICTURE, *subs. phr.* (old political).—A bricked-up window. [To save Pitt's Window-tax].—GROSE (1785).

PIZZLE, *subs.* (venery).—1. The *penis*: see PRICK. Also, as *verb.* = to copulate: see RIDE.—BAILEY (1728). Whence (2) a scourge: as made of bull's pizzles.

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, iv. 1. *Doll*. This goat's-PIZZLE of thine —. *Bell*. Away! I love no such implements in my house.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas*, i. vi. I felt across my shoulders five or six hearty thwacks with a bull's PIZZLE.

PLACE, *subs.* (colloquial).—(1) An abode; a place of business: see DIGGINGS. (2) A jakes, or HOUSE OF EASE (*q.v.*): see MRS. JONES.

THE PLACE, *subs. phr.* (venery).—The PRIVITIES (*q.v.*): see MONOSYLLABLE and PRICK: also PLACE OF EASE.

1759-67. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, ix, xx. You shall see THE very PLACE, said my uncle Toby. Mrs. Wadman blushed.

PLACE OF SIXPENNY SINFULNESS, *subs. phr.* (old).—The suburbs: specifically a bawdy-house so situated.

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*, v. 3. 'Go, sail with the rest of your bawdy-traffickeers to THE PLACE OF SIXPENNY SINFULNESS . . . ' 'I scorn the sinfulness of any suburbs in Christendom.'

See SPOT.

PLACEBO, *subs.* (medical and general).—1. A pacifying dose: hence (2) a sop of placation. Whence, TO SING (or HUNT, or GO TO THE SCHOOL OF) PLACEBO = to be servilely complaisant, or time-serving; to 'hold with the hare and hunt with the hounds.'

1362. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman's Vision*, l. 1991. Preestes and persons With PLACEBO TO HUNT.

c.1383. WYCLIF (?) *Leaven of Phari-sees*, iv. [MATHEW, *Unpr. Eng. Wks. of Wyclif* (1880), 15]. Zif thei visyten not pore men in here sikenesse but riche men with preue massis and PLACEBOES and diriges.

1383. CHAUCER, *Summoner's Tale*, l. 367. Beth ware, therefore, with lordes how ye pleye, SYNGETH PLACEBO—and I shal if I kan.

1481. CAXTON, *Reynard the Fox* (1880), xxvii. 65. Ther ben many that PLAY PLACEBO.

1508. SKELTON, *Phyl Sparowe*, 466. At this PLACEBO We may not well forgo The countrynge of the coe.

1544. KNOX, *Godly Letter* [MAITLAND, *Reformation*, 88]. Nowe they haue BENE AT THE SKOOLE OF PLACEBO, and ther they haue lerned amongst ladyes daunse as the deuil lyst to pype.

1591. SIR J. HARRINGTON, Pref. to ARIOSTO'S *Orlando Furioso*. Of which comedie . . . when some (TO SING PLACEBO) aduised that it should be forbidden, because it was somewhat too plaine, . . . yet he would haue it allowed.

1625. BACON, *Ess.* xxvi. And in stead of giuing Free Counsell SING him a Song of PLACEBO.

1819. SCOTT, *Bride of Lammermoor*, i. I made my bow in requital of the compliment, which was probably thrown in by way of PLACEBO.

18 [7]. *American Jour. Psychol. (Century)*. Physicians appeal to the imagination in desperate cases with bread pills and PLACEBOS.

1890. *Microcosm* (New York), Mar. Delight at the temporary effects of such a PLACEBO hypodermically administered.

1892. FENNEL, *Stanford Dict.*, s.v. PLACEBO . . . Lat. PLACERE = to please: the opening antiphon of the vespers for the office of the dead in the Latin church, named from the first word of the Vulgate version, *Placebo Domino in regione uiuentium*, 'I will walk before (please) the Lord in the land of the living' . . . hence phrases TO SING PLACEBO, TO PLAY PLACEBO = 'to be complacent,' 'to be obsequious'; also an useless medicine intended merely to gratify and conciliate a patient.

PLACER, *verb.* (American). — TO live in concubinage; TO LIVE TALLY (*q.v.*); to DAB IT UP (*q.v.*).

PLACKET (or PLACKET-HOLE), *subs.* (old). — (1) A petticoat-slit or pocket-hole; (2) a woman: cf. PETTICOAT; (3) the female *pu-dendum* (also PLACKET-BOX): see MONOSYLLABLE; and (4) a petticoat. Whence PLACKET-RACKET = the *penis*: see PRICK; TO SEEK A PLACKET = to whore; PLACKET-STUNG = infected (RAY). Occasionally PLACKET = shift.

1594. SHAKSPEARE, *Love's Lab.*, iii. 1. Liege of all loiterers and malcontents, Dread prince of PLACKETS, King of cod-pieces.

1594. TYLNEY, *Locrina*, iii. 3. My first wife was a loving quiet wench; but this, I think, would weary the devil . . . O Codpiece, thou hast done thy master; this it is to be meddling with warm PLACKETS.

1604. SHAKSPEARE, *Winter's Tale*, iv. 3. Is there no manners left among maids? will they wear their PLACKETS where they should bear their faces?

1605. SHAKSPEARE, *Lear*, iii. 4. Keep thy foot out of brothels, thy hands out of PLACKETS.

c. 1608. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Love's Cure*, i. 2. That a cod-piece were far fitter here than a pinn'd PLACKET. *Ibid.* (1619), *Humorous Lieut.*, iv. 3. Was that brave heart made to pant for a PLACKET?

1623. WEBSTER, *Duchess of Malfi*, iv. 2. A snuffing knave, that while he shows the tombs, will have his hand in a wench's PLACKET.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. xi. One would call it her pillicock . . . another her touch-trap . . . Another again her PLACKET-RACKET.

1654. GAYTON, *Rest. Notes*, 170. Just like a plow-boy tir'd of a broune jacket, And breeches round, long leathern point, NO PLACKET.

1665. *Sel. Coll. Epigrams* [HALLIWELL]. Deliro playing at a game of racket Far put his hand into Florinda's PLACKET; Keep hold, said shee, nor any further go, Said he, just so, the PLACKET well will do.

d.1674. HERRICK, *Works* [1897], ii. 160. If the maides a spinning goe, Burn the flax, and fire their toe, Scorch their PLACKETS, But beware that ye singe no maiden-haire.

PLAGUY (or **PLAGUILY**), *adj.* and *adv.* (colloquial).—Troublesome; annoying; 'deuced'; very.

1580. SIR P. SIDNEY, *Arcadia*, iii. Most wicked woman, that hast so PLAGUILY a corrupted mind as thou . . . must most wickedly infect others.

16[7]. *Sir Eglamour* [CHILD, *Ballads*, viii. 197]. The dragon he had a PLAGUY hide, Which could both sword and spear abide.

1601. WEBSTER, *Cure for Cuckold*, ii. 3. What PLAGUY boys are bred now-a-days.

1602. SHAKESPEARE, *Troilus*, ii. 3, 187. He is so PLAGUY proud that the death-tokens of it cry 'No recovery.'

c.1608. FLETCHER, *Humorous Lieutenant*, ii. 2. I am hurt PLAGUILY. *Ibid.* (1617), *Mad Lover*, v. 4. Oh, 'twas a PLAGUY thump, charg'd with a vengeance.

1709. STEELE, *Tatler*, No. 55. He looked PLAGUY sour at me.

1711. SWIFT, *To Stella*, xxxi. He was PLAGUILY afraid and humbled.

1768. GOLDSMITH, *Good Natured Man*, ii. You're so PLAGUY shy that one would think you had changed sexes.

1843-4. HALIBURTON, *Attache*, xix. 'Squire,' said Slick, 'I'd a PLAGUY sight sooner see Ascot than anything else in England.'

PLAIN, *adj.* (colloquial).—Watered; NEAT (*q.v.*).

PLAIN AS A PIKESTAFF (or PACKSTAFFE), *phr.* (colloquial).—Beyond argument: also PACK-STAFF (*adj.*) = plain. Also PLAIN AS THE NOSE ON YOUR FACE.

1546. BECON [Parker Soc., *Early Works*, 276]. He is no dissembler, his heart and tongue goeth together, He is as PLAIN AS A PACKSTAFF.

1598. J. HALL, *Virgid.*, iii., Prol., l. 4. Not riddle-like obscuring their intent, But PACK-STAFFE PLAINE, uttering what things they meant.

1599. MARSTON, *Scurge of Villanie*, l. [HALLIWELL, *Works*, iii. 249]. His honestie Shall be as bare as his anatomie, To which he bound his wife. O, PACK-STAFFE rimes! Why not, when court of stars shall see these crimes?

1641. BERNARD, *Terence in Eng.*, 89. You make a doubt, where all is PLAINE AS A PIKE STAFFE.

d.1656. HALL, *Satires*, vii. Prol. Not riddle-like, obscuring their intent, But PACK-STAFFE PLAINE, uttering what thing they ment.

d.1657. J. BRADFORD, *Works* [Parker Soc., 1853, ii. 319]. To make all AS PLAIN AS A PACK-STAFF.

1695. CONGREVE, *Love for Love*, iv. 'As witness my hand' . . . in great letters. Why, 'tis AS PLAIN AS THE NOSE ON ONE'S FACE.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 409. Continual intercourse gave me an opportunity of prying into the duke's inmost soul, . . . a masked battery to all mankind beside, but PLAIN AS A PIKESTAFF to me.

PLAIN - STATEMENT, *subs. phr.* (tailors').—1. An indifferent meal; COMMON-DOINGS (*q.v.*); and (2) a simple straight-forward piece of work.

PLANK, *subs.* (political).—See PLATFORM.

Verb. (common).—To deposit: as money; to pay: also to PLANK UP (or DOWN).

1843-4. HALIBURTON, *Attache* [BARTLETT]. I've had to PLANK DOWN handsome . . . *Ibid.* 'Why,' says he, 'shell out and PLANK DOWN a pile of dollars.'

1856. *Southern Sketches*, 163. Come, PLANK UP the tin.

1886-96. MARSHALL, 'Pomes' from the *Pink 'Un* ('The Merry Stumer'), 8. He PLANKED DOWN a stumer bob.

PLANT, *subs.* (thieves').—(1) Plunder; (2) a swindle or robbery; (3) a decoy; and (4) a place of hiding. Whence as *verb.* = (1) to conceal; (2) to select a person

or house for swindling or robbery ; (3) to utter base coin ; (4) in mining, to SALT (*q.v.*) ; (5) to humbug, to GAMMON (*q.v.*) ; and (6) to prepare cards for unfair play. Also IN PLANT = in hiding ; TO SPRING A PLANT = to unearth.—B. E. (*c.* 1696) ; GROSE (1785) ; VAUX (1819) ; MATSELL (1859). Hence (conjurers') = to prepare a trick by depositing an object in charge of a conscious or unconscious confederate.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Mark-all*, E 4. To PLANT, to hide.

1612. DEKKER, *O per se O* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 12]. When they did seeke, then we did creepe, and PLANT in ruffe-mans low.

c. 1819. SONG, 'The Young Prig' [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 82. 'I have a sweet eye for a PLANT.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, xxxix. 'I was away from London a week and more, my dear, on a PLANT,' replied the Jew.

1853. READE, *Gold*, iv. 1. *Levi*. This dust is from Birmingham, and neither Australian nor natural. *Rob*. The man PLANTED it for you.

d. 1870. DICKENS [quoted in *Century*]. It wasn't a bad PLANT, that of mine, on Filey, the man accused of forging the Sou' Western Railway Debentures.

1886-96. MARSHALL, 'Pomes' from the *Pink 'Un* ('Honest Bill'), 50. For PLANTS he always hated, 'cept the plants upon his sill,

1889. *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. ix. 50. Such-and-such an author says that so-and-so was 'burnt alive,' followed by . . . righteous indignation at what never happened, while the dispassionate scholar finds the whole thing a PLANT.

1892. PERCY CLARKE, *New Chum in Australia*, 72. A salted claim, a pit sold for a £10 note, in which a nugget worth a few shillings had before been PLANTED.

5. (old).—*In pl.* = the feet.

Verb. (thieves').—1. *See* subs. 1.

2. (old : now mostly colloquial).—To post, set, or fix in position.

1555. CAVENDISH, *Wolsey* [OLIPHANT]. [He PLANTS himself near the King.]

1600. JONSON, *Cynthia's Revels*, ii. 1. PLANT yourself there, sir : and observe me.

1602. SHAKESPEARE, *Twelfth Night*, ii. 3. I will PLANT you two, and let the fool make a third, where he shall find the letter.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, i. 148. He PLANTED himself with a firm foot in front of the image.

3. (old).—To bury.—GROSE (1785).

1872. CLEMENS ('Mark Twain'), *Innocents at Home*, 20. 'Now, if we can get you to help PLANT him —,' 'Preach the funeral discourse?'

4. (footballers').—To drive the ball into another player : hence PLANTER = a blow so given : specifically one delivered in the face.

5. (venery).—To achieve (or assist) intromission ; also TO PLANT A MAN (old) = to copulate : *see* GREENS and RIDE.

TO PLANT WHIDS AND STOW THEM, *verb. phr.* (old).—To be wary of speech.—B. E. (*c.* 1696) ; GROSE (1785).

1610. ROWLANDS, *Mauder's Wooing* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 8]. STOW YOUR WHIDS & PLANT, and whid no more of that.

TO PLANT HOME, *verb. phr.* (common).—(1) To deliver (as a blow) ; (2) to make a point (as in argument) ; and (3, general) to succeed.

1886. *Phil. Times*, 6 May. Cleary PLANTED two rib-roasters.

1899. *Daily Telegraph*, 7 Ap., 8, 3. See over there ! Opposition in the crowd. That roar means the opposition 's PLANTED one 'OME.

TO WATER ONE'S PLANTS,
verb. phr. (old).—To shed tears:
see BIB.

PLASTER, *verb.* (common).—To
flatter.

PLASTER OF WARM (OR HOT)
GUTS, *subs. phr.* (venery).—
Copulation; 'one warm Belly
clapt to another.'—B. E. (c.1696);
GROSE (1785): *see* GREENS AND
RIDE.

PLASTERER, *subs.* (sporting).—An
amateur gun: *see* quot. and *cf.*
PETER GUNNER.

1885. BROMLEY-DAVENPORT, *Sport*.
The PLASTERER is one who thinks nothing
of the lives and eyes of the men who sur-
round him on all sides, and blows his
pheasant to a pulp before the bird is seven
feet in the air.

PLATE (PLATE-FLEET OR FAMILY
PLATE), *subs.* (common).—1.
Generic for money: formerly a
piece of silver: also (HALLIWELL)
= 'illegal silver money': *see*
RHINO. Hence TO MELT THE
PLATE = to spend lavishly; WHEN
THE PLATE-FLEET COMES IN =
money in plenty.—B. E. (c.1696);
GROSE (1785).

1586. MARLOW, *Jew of Malta*
[DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), viii. 335].
He's worth three hundred PLATES.

1608. SHAKESPEARE, *Antony and*
Cleopatra, v. 2. In his livery Walk'd
crowns and crownets; realms and islands
were AS PLATES dropt from his pocket.

1624. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER,
Rule a Wife, ii. 2. 'Tis such a trouble to
... have a thousand things of great im-
portance, jewels and PLATES.

1740. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas*, vii. vii.
I left [Phenicia] busy in MELTING THE
PLATE of a little merchant goldsmith, who,
out of vanity, would have an actress for
his mistress.

2. (rhyming).—*In pl.* = the
feet: originally PLATES OF MEAT:
see CREEPERS. Whence TO
PLATE IT = to walk. Also
(American thieves') PLATES OF
MEAT = a street.

1886-96. MARSHALL, *Pomes from*
the Pink 'Un ['Some Object Lessons'],
108. He is rocky on his PLATES, For he
has forced them into 'sevens.' *Ibid.*
(Nobbled), 114. A cove we call Feet,
sir, on account of the size of his PLATES.

1887. SIMS, in *Referer*, 7 Nov.
'Tottie.' As she walked along the street
With her little PLATES OF MEAT.

OLD PLATES, *subs. phr.* (Stock
Exchange).—The shares of the
London and River Plate Bank.
NEW PLATES = shares of the
English Bank of the River Plate:
see STOCK EXCHANGE.

TO BE IN FOR THE PLATE AND
WIN THE HEAT, *verb. phr.* (old).
—To get pox or clap.—GROSE
(1785).

TO FOUL A PLATE, *verb. phr.*
(old).—To dine or sup.—GROSE
(1785).

PLATFORM, *subs.* (colloquial).—
Formerly a plan, design, or
model: now a declaration of
principles or doctrines (chiefly
religious and political) governing
organised public action, each
section or paragraph of which is
called a PLANK. Also, as *verb.*
= to draft or publish such a
declaration of principles or doc-
trines. [See the earlier quotes. for
an inkling of the modern usage.]

1555. FOXE, *Acts and Monuments*,
vi. 25. If my lord of St. Davids ...
have their head encumbered with any new
PLATFORM. *Ibid.*, 592. The bishop had
spent all his powder in casting such a
PLATFORM to build his policy on as he
thought should stand for ever and a day.

1605. BACON, *Adv. of Learning*, ii. 355. The wisdom of a lawmaker consisteth not only in a PLATFORM of justice, but in the application thereof.

1641-2. MILTON, *Reas. Ch. Government*, i. Some . . . do not . . . grant that church discipline is PLATFORMED in the Bible.

d.1732. BISHOP ATTERBURY, *Sermons*, ii. xiii. Every little society . . . imposed the PLATFORM of their doctrine, discipline, and worship as divine.

1848. *New York Herald*, 6 May. The Whigs, whether on the Lexington PLATFORM, or some other non-committal PLATFORM, will be and must be at once known as the party that opposed their country in her just and generous war.

d.1865. LINCOLN [in *Raymond*, p. 86]. In the Chicago PLATFORM there is a PLANK on this subject.

d.1878. S. BOWLES [MERRIAM, i. 291]. We want two PLANKS—non-extension of slavery, and state reform.

1888. *Louisville Courier Journal*, Feb. Mr. Cleveland will be re-nominated by acclamation. His message will be his PLATFORM.

PLATTER-FACE, *subs.* (old). — A broad or flat face : also as *adj.* : see DIAL.—B. E. (c.1696) ; GROSE (1785).

PLAUSIBLE, *adj.* (recognised). — Specious ; persuasive. — B. E. (c.1696).

PLAY, *subs.* (venery).—Copulation : see GREENS and RIDE. Hence, FOUL PLAY = adultery ; FAIR PLAY = fornication ; PLAYFELLOW = a lover, mistress, husband, or wife ; PLAYTHING = (1) a mistress, and (2) the *penis* (as in the proverb, 'A fool's BAUBLE (*q.v.*) is a lady's PLAYTHING' : cf. TOY) ; LOVE'S PLAYGROUND = (1) the female *pudendum*, and (2) a bed : see MONOSYLLABLE and KIP. As *verb.* = (1) to wanton (BAILEY), and (2) to copulate : also TO PLAY WITH ; TO PLAY THE WOMAN (THE WANTON, THE FOOL, OR THE

ACE AGAINST THE JACK) = to grant the favour ; TO PLAY THE GOAT = to fornicate hard ; TO PLAY OFF (OR WITH ONESELF) = to masturbate : see FRIG ; PLAYSOME (BAILEY) = wanton. See BEAST, WILY-BEGUILED, TAIL, &c.

1383. CHAUCER, *Miller's Tale*, l. 87. On a day this hende Nicholas Fil with this yonge wyf to rage and PLEVE. *Ibid.*, 13.352. Let us laugh and PLAY, Ye shal my joly body han to wedde : By God I nill not pay you but a-bedde.

1393. GOWER, *Confess. Aman.*, i. She bygan to PLAINE and rage, As who saith, I am well enough.

c.1520. *Mayd Emlyn* [HAZLITT, *E. Pop. Poetry*, iv. 94]. To ease her louer She toke another, That lustely conde do . . . With her lusty PLAYE.

d.1520. SKELTON, *Elynour Rummyng*, 219. Ich am not cast away, That can my husband say, Whan we kys and PLAY In lust and in lykyng. *Ibid.* [Dyce, *Works*, i. 24, 37]. For your jentyll husband sorowfull am I ; . . . he is not the first hath had a loss . . . warke more secretly . . . PLAYE FAYRE, madam . . . Or with gret shame your game wybbe sene.

d.1549. BORDE, *Mylnar of Abyngton* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poet.*, iii. 109]. Of her he had his will ynough, And PLAIDE them togyther. When the clarke had done his will, By the damosell he lay full stil.

1603. SHAKESPEARE, *Meas. for Meas.*, i. 4. He hath got his friend with child . . . I would . . . PLAY WITH all virgins so.

1608. SHAKESPEARE, *Pericles*, i. [GOWER]. The beauty of this sinful dame made many princes thither frame, To seek her as a bedfellow : In marriage-pleasures PLAYFELLOW.

1612. WEBSTER, *White Devil*, iv. 4. I do suspect my mother PLAYED FOUL PLAY, When she conceiv'd thee.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 93. The favours which my goddess winked at my snatching . . . fell short of the only perfect issue . . . Said I, this lady . . . thinks it beneath her quality TO PLAY THE VERY WOMAN at the first interview. *Ibid.*, 190. Though noblemen . . . attach themselves to pretty PLAYTHINGS like yourself, it is highly unbecoming in you to forget your proper distance.

d. 1796. BURNS, *Merry Muses*, 'They Took Me,' &c. They took me to the Holy Band For PLAYING by [= away from] my wife, Sirs.

PHRASES:—TO PLAY ARTFUL = to feign simplicity, to keep a card or two up one's sleeve; TO PLAY BOOTS (THE DEVIL, THE MISCHIEF, NED, &c.) = to thrust, to spoil, to ruin; TO PLAY OFF = (1) to simulate, and (2) to expose to merriment, and (3) to make an end; TO PLAY ON (or UPON) = to trifle with; TO PLAY UP = (1) to do one's best, and (2) to be troublesome; TO PLAY UP TO = to take one's cue from another; PLAYED UP (or OUT) = used up, or ruined; TO PLAY WITH ONE'S BEARD = to deceive; TO PLAY IT LOW = to take advantage; TO PLAY LIGHT = (1) to take it easy, and (2) to keep one's temper; TO PLAY FOR = to deal with generally; TO PLAY DARK = to conceal one's character or motive; TO PLAY THE WHOLE GAME = to cheat; TO PLAY LEAST IN SIGHT = to hide; TO PLAY TO THE GAS (theatrical) = to play to small audiences (*see* quot. 1899); TO PLAY TO THE GALLERY (theatrical) = to rant, to gag, to use the coarsest and cheapest means; TO PLAY IT OFF = to cheat; TO PLAY THE SOVEREIGN = to flatter an inferior; TO MAKE GOOD PLAY = to work to advantage, or with execution; TO COME INTO PLAY = to take one's turn, or share; TO PLAY FAIR (or FALSE) = to act or deal honestly (or the reverse); TO PLAY ONE'S CARDS WELL = to advance one's interests; TO PLAY INTO ONE'S HANDS = to advantage; TO KEEP (or HOLD) IN PLAY = to retain control, keep things going, or to engage; TO PLAY THE GIDDY GOAT = to

behave like a fool; TO PLAY WITH = to trifle; TO PLAY UPON ADVANTAGE = to cheat; TO PLAY IN AND OUT = to trifle; PLAYED OUT = exhausted, ruined, done for; TO PLAY A GOOD KNIFE AND FORK (*see* KNIFE, and add quot. 1749); TO PLAY THE GAME = to do honestly at whatever cost; TO PLAY DIDDLE-DIDDLE = to trick, to cajole; TO PLAY THE DUCK = (1) to go contrary, or against the grain: as ducks are plucked, and (2) to prove a coward; TO PLAY OFF ONE'S DUST = to drink. Other proverbial sayings are: 'She's like a cat, she'll PLAY with her tail,' of a wanton; 'The PLAY won't pay the candles' (or 'the acting is not worth the lights') = the end is not worth the means or risk; 'He'll PLAY a small game rather than stand out,' of a meddler or busybody. Also *see* BEAR; BEARD; BOB-FOOL; BOOTY; DEUCE; DEVIL; DICKENS; DUCKS; FAST; FATHERS-AND-MOTHERS; FIDDLE; GOOSE-BERRY; HARRY; HELL; HOB; HOOKY; IN-AND-IN; IN-AND-OUT; KNIFE; LOVE; MISCHIEF; POSSUM; SECOND FIDDLE; SCHOOLMASTER; TAIL; UGLY; UPTAILS-ALL; VELVET; WAG; WAGTAIL.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, l. 13, 163. Til we be ded, or else that we PLAY a pilgrimage (*i.e.*, to play off or pretend to go a pilgrimage).

1400. *York. Myst.* [OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 194. There are the new phrases . . . spillie sport, PLAY FAIR, &c.].

1525. TYNDALE, *Works* [Parker Soc.], ii. 35. As soon as he hath PLAYED OUT all his lusts . . . he cometh again with his old profession.

1530. SKELTON [DYCE, *Works*, ii. 203]. What blunderer is yonder that PLAYTH DIDIL-DIDDIL.

1544. ASCHAM, *Toxophilus* [ARBER], 97. Men PLAY with laws.

1566. R. EDWARDS, *Damon and Pythias* [NARES]. Yet have I PLAY'D WITH HIS BEARD, in knitting this knot I promist friendship; but . . . I meant it not.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet*, iii. 2. Though you can fret me you cannot PLAY UPON me.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *1 Hen. IV.*, v. 4. Art thou alive? Or is it fantasy that PLAYS UPON our eyesight? I prithee, speak. *Ibid.*, ii. 4. They call drinking deep, dyeing scarlet; and when you breathe in your watering, they cry 'hem!' and bid you PLAY IT OFF.

1600. JONSON, *Cynthia's Revels*, iv. 1. If she hath PLAYED LOOSE with me, I'll cut her throat.

1609. JONSON, *Case is Altered*, iv. 5. Is't not enough That you have PLAYED UPON me all this while, But still to mock me, still to jest at me.

1610. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Maid's Tragedy*, iv. 1. Do not PLAY with mine anger.

1652. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. xlii. By God! whoever of our party shall offer TO PLAY THE DUCK . . . I give myself to the devil if I do not make a monk of him.

1705. VANBRUGH, *Confederacy*, iii. *Flip*. Brass, the game is in our hands if we can but PLAY THE CARDS.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE (1866)], 14. Domingo, after PLAYING A GOOD KNIFE AND FORK, and getting gloriously muddled, took himself off to the stable. *Ibid.*, 143. Ortiz . . . was determined TO PLAY UP TO my mistress. *Ibid.*, 108. The little fellow . . . was but just COMING INTO PLAY. *Ibid.* (1812), iii. 83. 'What dost thou think of my lodging and oeconomy?' 'Thou must have certainly PLAYED THY CARDS well at Madrid, to be so well furnished.

1778. SHERIDAN, *Rivals*, ii. 1. You rely upon the mildness of my temper . . . you PLAY UPON the meekness of my disposition. *Ibid.*, ii. 2. You PLAY FALSE with us, madam—I saw you give the baronet a letter.

1842. MACAULAY, *Horatius*, xxix. Hew down the bridge, Sir Consul, With all the speed ye may; I with two more to help me, Will HOLD the foe IN PLAY.

1868-9. BROWNING, *Ring and Book*, vi. Why PLAY . . . INTO THE DEVIL'S HANDS Dy dealing so ambiguously.

186 [7]. BRET HARTE, *Further L. from Truthful James*. Is our investigation a failure, or is the Caucasian PLAYED OUT?

1882. *Fortnightly Review*, 88. After all there is some refreshing sense of the primeval about this PLAYED-OUT country.

1888. HENLEY and STEVENSON, *Deacon Brodie*, i. You PLAY FALSE, you bound!

1888. MILLIKEN, *'Arry Ballads* . . . Bin PLAYING SOME dark LITTLE GAME?

1892. ZANGWILL in *Idler*, Feb. 62. I think it's PLAYING IT TOO LOW upon a chap. It's taking a mean advantage of my position.

1895. POCOCK, *Rules of the Game*, ii. You can ride on the waggon if you are too PLAYED OUT for a saddle horse.

1898. NEWBOLT, *Admirals All*, 21. The word that, year by year, While . . . School is set . . . her sons must hear, And none . . . forget. This, they all, with joyful mind, Bear through life like a torch in flame, And falling, fling to the hosts behind, PLAY UP, PLAY UP, and PLAY THE GAME!

1899. *Daily Mail*, 16 Mar., 7, 1. PLAYING TO THE GAS is used in the general sense in reference to small audiences, but strictly it means that an audience was only large enough to render receipts sufficient to pay the bill for the evening's lighting.

PLEASURE, *subs.* (venery).—The sexual spasm: Fr. *le plaisir*. Hence, THE ART OF PLEASURE = the practise of love; THE DEED OF PLEASURE = the act of kind; PLEASURE-BOAT (-GARDEN, -GROUND, or -PLACE) = the female *pudendum*: also THE PALACE OF PLEASURE: see MONOSYLLABLE; PLEASURE-GARDEN PADLOCK = the menstrual cloth; PLEASURE-LADY (or LADY OF PLEASURE) = a harlot: Fr. *fille de joie*; A VOTARY OF PLEASURE = a whoremonger (BAILEY, 1748); TO PLEASURE (or PLEASE) A

WOMAN = to give her an orgasm (as the Duchess of Marlborough wrote in her diary that the Duke had PLEASURED her thrice 'in his boots').

c.1500. *Roberts the Dewyll* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poetry*, i. 223]. He toke her in hys armes, and her kyste; And of that Lady he had all hys PLEASURE, And so begate a chyld.

d.1520. SKELTON, *Phyllip Sparowe*, 1194. Her kyrtell so goodly lased, And vnder that is brased [ready] Such PLEASURES that I may Neyther wryte nor say.

1594. LVLV, *Mother Bomble*, iii. 4. *Rlx.* If you take your PLEASURE of me, I'll in and tell your practises against your masters. *Half.* In faith, soure hart, he that takes his PLEASURE on thee, is very PLEASURABLE.

1596. DAVIES, *Epigrams*, 'In Katam', viii. Kate being PLEASSED, wished that her PLEASURE could Endure as long as a buff jerkin would: Content thee, Kate, although thy PLEASURE wasteth, Thy PLEASURE'S PLACE like a buff jerkin lasteth.

1605. CHAPMAN, *All Fools*, i. 1. All day in ceaseless uproar with their households, If all the night their husbands have not PLEASSED them.

1608. SHAKESPEARE, *Pericles*, i. 1. Untimely claspings with your child (Which PLEASURE fits a husband, not a father); And she an eater of her mother's flesh.

1623. WEBSTER, *Duchess of Malfi*, v. 2. We that are great WOMEN OF PLEASURE . . . join the sweet delight and the pretty excuse together.

c.1640-2. SHIRLEY, *Captain Underwit*, i. Custome and nature make it less offence In women to commit THE DEED OF PLEASURE Than men to doubt their chastity.

1663-85. *Old Ballad*, 'Poor Robin's Prophecie'. Your LADY OF PLEASURE . . . will then become modest, and . . . live like a Nun in a Cloyster all day.

1681. RADCLIFFE, *Ovid Trav.*, 30. When first with PLEASURE I lay under you, Would you'd been lighter by a stone or two.

1736. JACOB, *Rape of the Smock*, 21. And ardently round Celia's waist he twines . . . Soft PLEASURE now succeeds an age of pain.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* (1812), ii. 77. Is it possible that a person of such delicacy can be a LADY OF PLEASURE? *Ibid.* (ROUTLEDGE), 89. A celebrated wanton . . . keeping open house night and day for the VOTARIES OF PLEASURE. She was . . . so perfect a mistress in the ART OF PLEASURE that she sold the waste and refuse of her beauty at a higher price than the first sample of the unadulterated article. *Ibid.*, 286. Whether pimping was a virtue or a vice . . . what a promotion for me to be the provider of PLEASURE to a great prince. *Ibid.*, 222. You cannot help admitting, that where a young man does insinuate himself slyly into a girl's bedchamber, he takes better care of his own PLEASURE than of her reputation.

1754. EARL OF CORK, *Connoisseur* [*England in 18th Century*, i. 47]. I was present at an entertainment where a celebrated LADY OF PLEASURE was one of the party; her shoe was pulled off . . . filled . . . with champagne and drank off to her health.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 97. A fine long nose, and proper measure . . . to give the fair ones PLEASURE. *Ibid.*, 244. He'd done his best to PLEASE. *Ibid.*, 399. Patroclus' bed was warm'd the last, And he his nights in PLEASURE past By a fair maiden's side.

d.1796. BURNS, *Merry Muses*, 'O, Saw Ye my Maggie?'. My Maggie has a treasure, A hidden MINE O' PLEASURE, I'll heuk it at my leisure, It's a' alane for me. *Ibid.*, 'Nine-Inch', &c. I learned a sang in Annandale, Nine-inch will PLEASE a lady.

1827. LYTTON, *Peckham*, xlix. The rest were made up of unfortunate women of the vilest . . . decrepit, but indefatigable VOTARIES OF PLEASURE.

1866. SWINBURNE, *Poems and Ballads*, 'In the Orchard'. The PLEASURE lives there, when the sense has died. 'Dolores.' PLEASURE more salt than the foam of the sea, Now felt as a flame, now at leisure, As wine shed for me. *Et passim*.

PLEB, *subs.* (Westminster School).
—A tradesman's son.

PLEBE, *subs.* (American Collegiate).
—A freshman; specifically one in the lowest class at West Point.
Hence PLEBESKIN = a freshman's tunic.

1888. *New York World*, 22 July. West Point, N.Y., July 21.—The fourth class entered camp on Monday, but are still wearing their **PLEBSKINS**.

PLEDGE, *subs.* (colloquial).—A baby.

1622. FLETCHER, *Sp. Curate*, i. 3. 'Tis the curse Of great estates to want those **PLEDGES** which The poor are happy in.

1751. SMOLLETT, *Per. Pickle* (1895), iii. 122. In a few hours a living **PLEDGE** of my love and indiscretion saw the light.

Verb. (Winchester School).—To give away. '**PLEDGE ME**' = 'After you'; 'I'll **PLEDGE** it you when I have done with it: cf. **POSTE TE**.

PLENIPO, *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. A plenipotentiary.

1697. VANBRUGH, *Provoked Wife*, iii. 1. I'll . . . say the **PLENIPOS** have signed the peace, and the Bank of England's grown honest.

1740. NORTH, *Examen*, 297. White-acre . . . was the treason **PLENIPO** at that time.

1815. D'ARBLAY, *Diary*, 329. We were buoyed up . . . with the hope that G neral Laurington was gone to England as **PLENIPO**.

2. (venery).—The *penis*: see **PRICK**.

c.1786. CAPT. MORRIS, *THE PLENI-POTENTIARY* [Title and *passim*].

PLIER, *subs.* (common).—The hand: see **DADDLE**.

PLOLL-CAT, *subs.* (old).—A whore: see **TART**.

PLOUGH, *verb.* (University).—1. To reject in an examination. [See *infra* Smyth-Palmer on **PLUCK**.]

1863. READE, *Hard Cash*, Prol. Gooseberry pie . . . adds to my chance of being **PLOUGHED** for smalls.

1877. *Driven to Rome*, 68. These two promising specimens were not **PLOUGHED**, but were considered fit to teach that . . . of which they were so lamentably ignorant themselves.

1895. POCOCK, *Rules of the Game*, i. I knew one of that lot at Corpus; in fact, we were crammed by the same Tutor for 'smalls,' and both got **PLOUGHED**.

1900. WHITE, *West End*, 148. 'I'll pay you back directly I have passed' . . . But suppose you're **PLOUGHED**! 'Well, then, I suppose you'll have to wait.'

Verb. (venery).—To copulate: see **GREENS** and **RIDE**.

1608. SHAKESPEARE, *Pericles*, vi. 6. *Bowd.* Take her . . . use her . . . crack the glass of her virginity . . . *Bowlt.* She shall be **PLOUGHED**. *Ibid.*, *Ant. and Cleop.*, ii. 2, 232. Royal wench! She made great Caesar lay his sword to bed: He **PLOUGH'D** her and she cropped.

TO **PLOUGH THE DEEP**, *verb. phr.* (rhyming).—To **peep**.

TO **PUT THE PLOUGH BEFORE THE OXEN**, *verb. phr.* (old).—To reverse; 'to put the cart before the horse.'

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. He would **PUT THE PLOUGH BEFORE THE OXEN**, and claw where it did not itch.

PROVERBIAL PHRASES are:—TO **PLOUGH WITH ASS AND OX** = to sort or do things ill; TO **LET THE PLOUGH STAND TO CATCH A MOUSE** = to neglect weighty matters for small; TO **PLOUGH THE AIR** (or **A ROCK**) = to attempt the absurd or impossible.

PLOUGHED, *adj.* and *adv.* (common).—Drunk: see **SCREWED**.

PLOUGHSHARE, *subs.* (venery).—The *penis*: see **PRICK**.

1865. SWINBURNE, *Atalanta, &c.*, 107. Thou, I say Althea, since my father's **PLOUGHSHARE**, drawn Through fatal seed-land of a female field, Furrowed thy body.

PLOVER, *subs.* (old).—A wanton: cf. **PARTRIDGE**, **PHEASANT**, and **GROUSE**: see **TART**.

1855. BRISTED, *Eng. Univ.*, 258. If a man is PLUCKED—that is, does not get marks enough to pass—his chance of a Fellowship is done for.

1886. STUBBS, *Medieval and Mod. History*, 386. I trust that I have never PLUCKED a candidate . . . without giving him every opportunity of setting himself right.

2. (venery).—To deflower : *see* DOCK.

1608. SHAKESPEARE, *Pericles*, vi. 5. Never PLUCKED yet, I can assure you. Is she not a fair creature.

AGAINST THE PLUCK, *adv. phr.* (old).—Against the inclination.—GROSE (1785).

TO PLUCK THE RIBAND, *verb. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.—GROSE (1785).

c. 1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PLUCK THE RIBAND, or PLUCK SIR ONION, ring the Bell at the Tavern.

See CROW ; PIGEON ; NOSE ; ROSE.

PLUCK-PENNY, *subs. phr.* (old).—*See* quot.

1643. *Theeves, Theeves*, 2. He that is once so skilled in the art of gaming as to play at PLUCK PENNY, will quickly come to sweepstake.

PLUG, *subs.* (common).—1. A silk hat : also PLUG-HAT : *see* GOL-GOTHA.

1872. CLEMENS, *Innocents at Home*, . . . A nigger in a biled shirt and a PLUG-HAT.

1888. *Eclectic Mag.* Cæsar was the implacable foe of the aristocracy, and refused to wear a PLUG-HAT up to the day of his death.

2. (common).—A man or beast, short and thick-set : *see* FORTY-GUTS.

1872. CLEMENS, *Innocents at Home*. An old PLUG-HORSE, that eat up his market value in hay and barley in seven-teen days by the watch.

1888. *Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, 22 April. Some . . . screamed with delight, and others . . . anathemised the jockey who rode the PLUG they had backed.

3. (artisans').—A workman whose apprenticeship has been irregular ; a TURN-OVER (*q.v.*) : specifically (in America) a craftsman who has learned his business in casual or evening classes. Such teaching is called PLUG-TEACHING.

4. (common).—Anything damaged or deteriorated : as an unsuccessful book ; an old horse ; coins bored full of holes and PLUGGED with base metal ; a shop-soiled bicycle ; and so forth. Also OLD PLUG. Hence (generally) PLUG=any defect—moral, physical, or otherwise.

1888. *Texas Siftings*, 3 Nov. Can't sell you a ticket for that quarter ; it's PLUGGED.

5. (schools').—A translation ; a CRIB (*q.v.*) ; a PONY (*q.v.*).

1853. BRADLEY, *Verdant Green*. Getting up his subjects by the aid of those royal roads to knowledge, variously known as cribs, crams, PLUGS, abstracts, analyses, or epitomes.

6. (American).—A loafer, well-dressed or other : *see* PLUG-UGLY.

Verb. (Western States).—1. To hit with a bullet.

2. (venery).—To copulate : *see* GREENS and RIDE.

PLUG-HAT. *See* PLUG, *subs.* 1.

PLUG-TAIL, *subs. phr.* (old).—The penis : *see* PRICK.—GROSE (1785).

PLUG-UGLY, *subs. phr.* (American).—A Baltimore street rowdy, circa 1860-80. Hence any loafer or ROUGH (*q.v.*).

1876. *Providence Journal*, 30 Sep. The Democrats are getting up a soldiers' convention at Indianapolis. As Union soldiers are scarce in the Democrat ranks, many are recruited from the PLUG-UGLIES of Baltimore.

1897. *Daily Telegraph*, 13 July, p. 5, col. 1. The PLUG-UGLY, the 'dead rabbit,' and the Californian 'hoodlum' are as racy of the soil of America as the 'larrikin' is of that of Australia.

1896. CRANE, *Maggie*, xiv. And she goes off with that PLUG-UGLY, who looks as if he had been hit in the face with a coin die.

PLUM (or PLUMB), subs. (common).

—I. £100,000; a fortune: see RHINO. Hence, a rich man.—GROSE (1785).

1709-11. STEELE, *Tatler*, No. 244. An honest gentleman who sat next to me, and who was worth half a PLUMB, stared at him.

d.1721. PRIOR, *The Ladle*, Moral. The Miser must make up his PLUMB, And dares not touch the boarded Sum.

c.1719. *Vision of Justice* [quoted in *Century*]. Several who were PLUMS, or very near it, became men of moderate fortunes.

1766. COLMAN, *Clandestine Marriage*, iii. My brother Heidelberg was a warm man, a very warm man; and died worth a PLUMB at least.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. v. Then your visit to Almack's will be at least worth a PLUM to you.

1844. THACKERAY, *Barry Lyndon*, xiii. An English tallow-chandler's heiress, with a PLUM to her fortune.

1890. BOLDEWOOD, *Squatter's Dream*, 104. Twenty years on the Warroo with the certainty of a PLUM and a baronetcy at the end.

1899. BESANT, *Orange Girl*, 56. You the only son of Sir Peter Halliday . . . the heir to a PLUM—what do I say? Three or four PLUMS at the least.

2. (common).—A good thing; a tit-bit: also as *adj.* (*q.v.*).

1889. *Academy*, 2 Nov., 280. The reviewer who picks all the PLUMS out of a book . . . is regarded with . . . terror . . . by both authors and publishers.

1892. *The Writer*, 120 [*Century*]. Often, indeed, the foot-note contains the very PLUM of the page.

Adj. (old).—A general appreciative: good; desirable; exactly; quite; dextrously; thorough-going. Whence also PLUMB-CENTRE = exactly at the centre: as a plummet hangs.—GROSE (1785); VAUX (1819). Also PLUMMY.

1667. MILTON, *Paradise Lost*, II. 933. He meets a vast vacuity, all un-awares, Fluttering his pennons vain, PLUMB down he falls.

1748. RICHARDSON, *Clarissa*, IV. 262. Neither can an opposition, neither can a ministry be always wrong. To be a PLUMB man therefore with either is an infallible mark that the man must mean more and worse than he will own he does mean.

1819. *Song*, 'The Young Prig' [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 82]. Frisk the cly, and fork the rag, Draw the fogles PLUMMY.

1830. BARRINGTON, *Personal Sketches* [BARTLETT]. The best way to avoid danger is to meet it PLUMB.

1859. REID, *Osceola*, 415. We seed 'em both fire acrost the gleed, an' right PLUMB-CENTRE at young Randolph.

1867. *London Herald*, 23 March, 222, 1. Ain't this ere PLUMMY.

1876. GEORGE ELIOT, *Daniel Deronda*, xvi. The poets have made tragedies enough about signing oneself over to wickedness for the sake of getting something PLUMMY.

1883. *Century Magazine*, xxxvi. 900. O Sal, Sal, my heart ar' PLUM broke.

1888. *San Francisco Weekly Examiner*. I'm awful fond o' po'try—jus' PLUMB crazy ovah it.

1895. POCOCK, *Rules of the Games*, II. 10. But, doc, he ain't PLUMB stove up; He ain't going to die here in this goal 3.

1898. WINTHROP, *Cecil Dreeme*, vi. How refreshing to find such a place and such a person PLUMB in the middle of New York.

Verb. (common).—To deceive: see GAMMON.

See BLUE PLUM.

PLUM-DUFF, *subs. phr.* (nautical).—
Plum-dumpling; SPOTTED-DOG
(*q.v.*).

PLUMP, *subs.* (old).—A blow.—
GROSE (1785). Also PLUMPER.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*,
378. Gave me a PLUMPER on the jaw,
And cry'd: Fox take you!

Adj. and adv. (old: now recog-
nised).—1. Exactly; downright;
quite. Also as *verb.* = to meet
in more or less violent contact;
and PLUMPLY (or PLUMP AND
PLAIN) = without reserve, roundly.

1535. COVERDALE, *Trans. Bible*
[OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 441. We see
'The waters PLUMPED together'; hence
our 'going PLUMP INTO a thing.']

1614. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER,
Wit at Several Weapons, i. 1. The art
of swimming he that will attain to't, Must
fall PLUMP and duck himself at first.

1778. BURNES, *Evelina*, iv. PLUMP
we comes against a cart, with such a jog it
almost pulled the coach-wheel off.

2. (old: now recognised).—
Fat, full, fleshy.—GROSE (1785).
Hence, PLUMP IN THE POCKET
= with plenty of money; WARM
(*q.v.*).

Verb. (political).—1. To record
a whole- (*i.e.*, an unsplit-) vote.
Whence PLUMPER = (1) the voter
and (2) the vote. Also (racing)
= to back one horse; and
(general) = 'to put all one's eggs
in one basket.'—GROSE (1785).

1871-2. G. ELIOT, *Middlemarch*, li.
Mr. Brooke's success must depend either
on PLUMPERS, or on the new minting of
Tory votes into reforming votes.

1885. *Westminster Rev.* [Century].
They refused to exercise their right of
electing local members, and PLUMPED for
Earl Grey himself in 1848.

2. (old).—To strike; to shoot.
—GROSE (1785).

3. *See adj. and adv.*, sense 1.

PLUMPER, *subs.* (common).—1. An
unqualified falsehood: *see* WHOP-
PER.

2. (common).—A device for
puffing out to smoothness the
wrinkles of the cheeks.—GROSE
(1785). Also a false bosom.

16 [7]. *London Ladies Dressing*
Room [NARES]. And that the cheeks may
both agree Their PLUMPERS fill the cavity.

d. 1745. SWIFT, *Young Nymph*. Now
dextrously her PLUMPERS draws, That
serve to fill her hollow jaws.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*,
123. Unless I dress your PLUMPERS out
. . . Then you'll . . . be willing To earn
a sixpence or a shilling.

3. (political and general).—
See PLUMP, *verb.*—GROSE (1785).

4. *See* PLUMP, *subs.*

PLUMP-CURRENT, *adj. and adv.*
(old).—In good condition; in
fettle; in high spirits.—GROSE
(1785).

PLUM-PORRIDGE, *subs. phr.* (old).
—A term of contempt: *cf.*
PUDDING-HEAD.

1634. SHAKESPEARE and FLETCHER,
Two Noble Kinsmen, ii. 2. I'll be hanged
though If he dare venture; hang him,
PLUM-PORRIDGE! He wrestle? he roast
eggs.

PLUMP-PATE, *subs.* (old).—A block-
head: *see* BUFFER.

PLUM-PUDDINGER, *subs. phr.*
(American).—A small whaler
making short voyages. [Century:
the crew is dieted on fresh pro-
visions and an abundance of
plum-pudding.]

18 [7]. SCAMMON, *Marine Mammals*,
241. Provincetown has ever been foremost
with her numerous fleet of PLUM-PUD-
DINGERS.

PLUM-TREE, *subs.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE. Whence HAVE AT THE PLUM-TREE, a proverbial phrase, or the burden of a song.

c.1547. *Marriage of Witt and Wisdom*, 16. I was neuer stained but once falling out of my mother's PLUMTRE.

1594. SHAKESPEARE, *2 Henry VI.*, ii. 1. *Sw.* How camest thou so? [*lame*]. *Simp.* A fall off of a tree. *Wife.* A PLUM-TREE, master. *Glow.* How long hast thou been blind? *Simp.* O, born so, master.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Hocke-prunier*. A PLUM-TREE shaker, a man's yard.

PLUNDER, *subs.* (American).—1. Household goods; personal effects; baggage. [M. D. *plunder* = household effects.]

d.1834. COLERIDGE, *Letters*, 214. They [Americans] had mistaken the English language for baggage (which is called PLUNDER in America), and had stolen it.

1846. *Major Jones's Courtship*, 165. Old Bosen was going to have more'n his match to pull us, they'd put in so much PLUNDER, Two trunks, handboxes, &c.

1859. HOFFMAN, *Winter in the West*, xxxiii. 'Help yourself, stranger,' added the landlord, 'while I tote your PLUNDER into the other room.'

1873. *Lynch Law in the Sucker State*. On Sunday afternoon, two long dug-outs, loaded with PLUNDER, stopped at the cabin . . . This was the family and property of Hank Harris.

2. (common).—Profit; MAKINGS (*q.v.*).

PLUNGE, *verb.* (racing).—To bet recklessly. Hence A PLUNGE = a reckless bet; PLUNGING = gambling for high stakes; PLUNGER = a reckless gambler. [*E.g.*, the Marquis of Hastings, the first so-called. One night he played three games of draughts for £1000 a game and lost all three. He then 'cut' for £500 a 'cut' and

lost £5000 in less than two hours. Benzon (the Jubilee Plunger) lost £250,000 in little more than twelve months.]

1880. *Fortnightly Review*, 319. PLUNGING was the order of the day.

1890. SIMS, in *Referee*, 20 Ap. 'Rondeau of the Knock.' One PLUNGER more has had his little flare, And then came Monday when he couldn't 'square.'

1891. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 3 Ap. The Squire of Kingscote took to PLUNGING and shaking his elbow at baccarat nearly every night.

1901. *Free Lance*, 9 Feb., 471, 1. Sponging on their friends in order to settle their Stock Exchange "differences" . . . Husbands are ruined in a day by the secret PLUNGING of their wives.

PLUNGER, *subs.* (military).—1. A cavalry man.

1857. KINGSLEY, *Two Years Ago*, xvi. It's an insult to the whole Guards, my dear fellow, after refusing two of us, to marry an attorney, and after all to bolt with a PLUNGER.

2. See PLUNGE, *verb.*

3. (clerical).—A Baptist.

PLUSH, *subs.* (nautical).—1. See *quot.*

1867. SMYTH, *Sailors' Word Book*, s.v. PLUSH . . . The overplus of the gravy, arising from being distributed in a smaller measure than the true one, and assigned to the cook of each mess, becomes a cause of irregularity.

2. (venery).—The pubic hair: see FLEECE.

JOHN PLUSH, *subs. phr.* (common).—A footman: cf. THACKERAY, *The Yellowplush Correspondence*, by Charles YELLOWPLUSH, Esq.

PLYER, *subs.* (old).—A crutch.—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

2. (old).—A trader.—GROSE (1785).

POCK-PUDDING, *subs. phr.* (old Scots').—A bag-pudding: hence, by force of metaphor, a glutton: especially an Englishman: whose appetite the Scotchman affected to despise, even as he hated and envied him for its manifold opportunities.

1730. BURT, *Letters*, i. 13, 138. 'Tis from this notion of the people, that my countrymen not only here, but all over Scotland, are dignified with the title of **POCK-PUDDING**, which, according to the sense of the word among the natives, signifies a glutton.

... HERD, *Scot. Songs* (1776), i. 118. They'll fright the fuds of the **POCK-PUDS**, For mony a buttock bare's coming.

POCKY. See **POX**.

POD, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A foot: specifically of children. Hence, **TO POD** = to toddle.

2. A protuberant belly; a **CORPORATION** (*q.v.*): also **POD-BELLY**. Hence, **POD-BELLIED** (**PODDY**, or **IN POD**) = (1) fat or stout: of men; and (2) pregnant, **LUMPY** (*q.v.*): of women. Hence, **TOO, PODGY, PUDGY, and PUDSEY**, See **POT**.

1752. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, vii. 232. He ... kissed its forehead, its cheek, its lips, its little **PUDSEY** hands, first one, then the other.

1836. DICKENS, *Bos*, 1. The vestry clerk, as everybody knows, is a short, **PUDGY**, little man in black.

1845. THACKERAY, *Cornhill to Cairo*, iii. The good old man! I wish I had had a shake of that trembling **PODGY** hand somehow before he went. *Ibid.* (1854), *Newcomes*, vii. She ... with infinite grace put forward one of the **PUDGY** little hands, in one of the dirty gloves.

1871. MATHEW ARNOLD, *Friendship's Garland*, v. A blond and disorderly mass of tow-like hair, a **PODGY** and sanguine countenance.

1885. FIELD, 17 Oct. A good little spaniel if she was not shown so fat and **PODGY**.

3. (Scots').—A louse: see **CHATES**.

PODGE, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A fat man or woman.

2. (old).—An epaulette.

1834. MARRYAT, *Peter Simple*, ... To put it into the wame of yon man with the gold **PODGE** on his shoulder, who has dared to affront the bluid of McFay.

PODDY, *adj.* (colloquial).—1. Drunk: see **DRINKS** and **SCREWED**.

2. See **POD**, sense 2.

PODUNK, *subs.* (American).—An imaginary place: in burlesque.

POEM, *subs.* (colloquial).—A foolish appreciative: as a well-cooked dish; a pretty dress; a smart-cut coat, and so forth.

1898. *Pelican*, 19 Feb., 17. Certain newly-shaped pieces, which, instead of being called by old-time English names are now referred to as bifurcated "Watteau visions"—"dreams"—"creations"—**POEMS**.

1899. *Illustrated Bits*, 25 Mar., 15, 2. Your dress is charming—a perfect **POEM** in curves.

POET-SUCKER, *subs. phr.* (old colloquial).—A budding poet: cf. **RABBIT-SUCKER**.

1625. JONSON, *Staple of News*, iv. 2. What says my **POET-SUCKER**? He's chewing his muse's cud.

POET'S-WALK, *subs. phr.* (Eton).—The tea served to Upper Club, on half holidays, in **RIVER-WALK**.

POGE (**POGUE**, or **POGH**). See **POKE**.

POGRAM, *subs.* (old).—A Dissenter; a formalist; a puritanical starch maw-worm; a **CREAK-SHOES** (*q.v.*).—**HOTTEN** (1864).

POGY, *adj.* (old). — Drunk. See DRINKS and SCREWED. — GROSE (1785); HALLIWELL (1847). [*Cf.* (BEE, 1823) 'POGEY - AQUA — long-shore for — make the grog strong.']

1881. *New York Slang Dict.*, 42. Without his boss to prevent him from getting POGY.

POINT, *subs.* (colloquial). — In *pl.* = Beauties: of women or children: accepted as applied to the characteristics of animals.

1370. *Torrent of Portugal* [HALLIWELL], 1910. This lady . . . delyvered were, Of men children two. In POYNTE they were gent, And like they were to Ser Torrent.

POSSESSION is NINE (or ELEVEN) POINTS OF THE LAW, *phr.* (colloquial). — Said in deprecation of any attempt to change things as they are, or to seek redress.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 368. At least she had POSSESSION, and that is NINE POINTS OF THE LAW, though scarcely one of honesty.

PHRASES, more or less colloquial, are numerous. They mostly centre on a figurative use of POINT = (1) a sharp end, or (2) a small but well-defined spot: as a dot, a speck, a hole, a moment, &c. TO SEE (TELL, or MAKE PLAIN) A POINT = to understand (narrate or explicate) the drift, or application of a thing: as an argument, a narrative, a detail; TO CARE (or BE WORTH) BUT A POINT = to esteem lightly; POINT (like PIN, RAP, CENT, &c.) = the smallest standard of value; TO UNTRUSS A POINT = (1) to take down one's breeches, and hence (2) to ease one's bowels; POINT = a tagged lace, used of old to keep doublet and hose together; TO GIVE POINT TO

(or BRING A POINT TO BEAR ON) = to emphasise: also TO POINT; TO COME TO THE POINT = to go to the root of a matter; TO BOIL DOWN (or CLOSE) TO A POINT = (1) to condense: as a paragraph, and (2) to balance: as an account; TO STRETCH (or STRAIN) A POINT = to exceed a limit (GROSE); TO MAKE A POINT OF = (1) to strive (or insist) to an end, and (2) to elicit a detail or make a desired impression (also TO PROVE ONE'S POINT); TO GAIN ONE'S POINT = to effect a purpose; TO STAND ON POINTS = to be punctilious; TO BE AT A POINT = to be determined; TO COME TO POINTS = to fight: with swords; TO GIVE POINTS TO = (1) to have (or give) an advantage, and (2) to impart exclusive or valuable information, TO TIP (*q.v.*): also POINTERS; AT ALL POINTS = completely; AT (or IN) THE POINT = (1) ready, and (2) in the act of; IN GOOD POINT = in good condition (*Fr. embon-point*); IN POINT = apropos; IN POINT OF = as regards; POINT FOR POINT = exactly; TO POINT = completely; BEYOND A POINT = in excess; A POINT IN FAVOUR = an advantage in hand; FULL OF POINT = epigrammatic, effective; THE POINT OF A MATTER = its end or purpose; AT POINT NONPLUS = hard up, IN QUEER ST. (*q.v.*); AT POINT BLANK = immediately, direct. See also CUCKOLD'S POINT; POTATO; SPEAR; and V.

1350. *William of Palerne* [E. E. T. S.], 107. Armed AT ALLE POYNTE.

1358. CHAUCER, *Parliament of Fowls* [Chaucer Soc.], 76. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, I. 112. Another verb is dropped in TO THE POYNTE.]

1359. GAYTRIGG [*Relig. Pieces* (E. E. T. S.), 29]. And PROVE HIS POYNT [purpose].

1362. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowmans* *Crede* [WRIGHT], l. 1676. But for I am a lewed man, Paraunter I myghte Passen par adventure, And in some poynnt erren.

.... *Rom. of Partenay* [E. E. T. S.], 1392. Where she no POINT had of diffame no daia.

.... PALLADIUS, *Husbondrie* [E. E. T. S.], 154. And over yere thai wol been in GOODE POINTE.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, Prol., 136. He was a lord ful fat and in GOOD POYNTE. *Ibid.*, *Man of Lawes Tale*, 232. Lordes . . . ye knowen everich on, How that my sone in POINT is for to lete The holy lawes of our Alkaron. *Ibid.*, *Monkes Tale*. He can al devyse FRO POINT TO POINT, nat o word wol he faille.

c.1400. *The Smyth and his Dame* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poet.* iii. 219]. But here a POYNTE I GYVE THE, The mayster shalt thov yet be Of all thy craft trvely.

c.1440. MERLIN [E. E. T. S.], ii. 350. Amaunt be-thought hym that he myght come neuer in BETTER POYNTE to conquere his Castell. *Ibid.*, i. 106. Thei cowde not in hym espie no POYNTE of covetise. *Ibid.*, iii. 562. The thirde was Monevall, that was a noble knyght, and richely armed of ALLE POINTES.

d.1520. SKELTON, *Bowge of Courte*, 246. But TO THE POYNTE shortly to procede.

1564. UDALL, *Apoph. Eras.*, 8. In matters NOT WORTH A BLEWE POINCE . . . we will spare for no cost.

1580. SIDNEY, *Arcadia*, i. But in what particular POINTS the oracle was, in faith I know not.

1587. HARRISON, *Desc. of England* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 3. Among the Romance words are . . . AT POINT BLANK, &c.]

1590. SPENSER, *Faerie Queene*, i. ii. 12. Full large of limbe and every joint He was, and CARED NOT for God or man A POINT.

1592. SHAKESPEARE, *Mid. Night's Dream*, v. i. 118. This fellow doth not STAND UPON POINTS. *Ibid.* (1594), *Henry VI.*, iv. 7. Now art thou within POINT-BLANK of our jurisdiction legal. *Ibid.* (1596), *Hamlet*, i. 2. A figure like your father, Armed AT POINT exactly, Cap-a-pe, Appears before them. *Ibid.* (1598), *2 Hen. IV.*, ii. 4. Give me some sack: and, sweetheart, lie thou there. [*Laying down his sword.*] Come we to FULL POINTS here.

Ibid. (1601), *Henry VIII.*, i. 2. I'll hear him his confessions justify; And POINT BY POINT the treasons of his master he shall again relate. *Ibid.* (1602), *Twelfth Night*, v. 1. Like to the Egyptian thief AT POINT OF DEATH. *Ibid.* (1603), *Measure for Measure*, i. 2. No, indeed, sir . . . you are therein in the right: but TO THE POINT. *Ibid.* (1609), *Tempest*, i. 2, 194. Hast thou . . . Performed TO POINT the tempest that I bade thee.

1611. CHAPMAN, *May-day*, i. 2. I'll to the enemy POINT BLANK; I'm a villain else.

1611. *Bible* [Auth. Ver.], Gen. xxv. 32. And Esau said, Behold, I am AT THE POINT to die.

1616. JONSON, *Devil is an Ass*, iii. 1. If I transgress in POINT of manners, afford me Your best construction.

1637. FLETCHER, *Elder Brother*, iii. 1. Young Eustace is a gentleman AT ALL POINTS. *Ibid.* (1647), *Knight of Malta*, i. 1. Thou hurriest me beyond mine honour's POINT.

1648. SUCKLING, *Letters*, 86. A pretty POINT of security, and such a one as all Germany cannot afford.

d.1657. BRADFORD, *Letters* [Parker Soc. (1853), ii. 120]. Be AT A POINT with yourselves, to follow not your will but God's will.

1713. STEELE, *Guardian*, 42. There is a kind of drama in the forming of a story, and the manner of . . . POINTING it is the same as in an epigram.

d.1732. GAY, *Poems* [Century]. Beauty with early bloom supplies Her daughter's cheek, and POINTS her eyes.

d.1745. SWIFT, *To a Young Clergyman*. The constant design of both these orators, in all their speeches, was to DRIVE SOME one particular POINT.

1749. JOHNSON, *Human Wishes*, 222. He left the name at which the world grew pale TO POINT a moral, or adorn a tale.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 110. Set their faces POINT-BLANK against the tastes of the public; and as a proof of this there were a thousand cases in POINT. *Ibid.*, 120. Blanche . . . was armed AT ALL POINTS with the weapons of a most perfect beauty.

1759. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, i. 9. Every author has a way of his own in BRINGING HIS POINTS TO BEAR.

1760. SMOLLETT, *Cresset*, iii. They would have COME TO POINTS immediately had not the gentlemen interposed.

1779. SHERIDAN, *Critic*, ii. 1. When history . . . furnishes anything like A CASE IN POINT . . . an author will take advantage of it . . . It is a received POINT among poets that . . . you may fill up with a little love at your own discretion.

1790. BRUCE, *Source of Nile*, i. 371. Many disadvantages IN POINT OF climate.

1814. WORDSWORTH, *Excursion*, vi. Our Swain, A very hero till his POINT was gained.

1819. GRENVILLE, *Memoirs*, 3 Feb. Both her letters and her conversation are FULL OF POINT.

1830. SOUTHEY, *Bunyan*, 42. He maintained, which indeed was THE POINT AT ISSUE, that the opinions held that day by the Quakers were the same that the Ranters had held long ago.

d.1832. CRABBE, *Works*, i. 93. Not one grief was POINTED by remorse.

1841. D'ISRAËLI, *Amen. of Lit.*, ii. 352. An epigram now is a short satire, Closing with a POINT of wit.

1843. MACAULAY, *Clive* [Century]. Shah Alum had invested Patna, and was ON THE POINT OF proceeding to storm.

1847. TENNYSON, *Princess*, iii. I . . . found her there AT POINT to move.

1847. BRONTË, *Jane Eyre*, xi. I suppose the POINT of the exhibition lay in hearing the notes of love and jealousy warbled with the lisp of childhood; and in very bad taste that POINT was.

1870. MEDBERRY, *Men and Mysteries of Wall St.*, 83. If the operator has a good POINT, he has a sure thing . . . In other words, . . . a bit of secret information concerning a stock, whether an extra dividend to be declared, a bull movement organizing, an emission of new shares to take place, or some other cause at work, or likely to be at work, which will seriously affect prices.

1883. *American*, vi. 283 [Century]. Any average Eton boy could GIVE POINTS to his Holiness in the matter of Latin verses.

1884. *New York Herald*, 4 Nov. I will give him a POINTER that will be of great benefit to you in your business.

1888. *New York Mercury*, 7 Aug. All things taken into consideration, there never was a bolder voyage over the Atlantic than this made by the 'Romer,' all for the sake of a few POINTS in news.

1888. *Denver Republican* [Americanisms]. There is a big POINTER for those gentlemen who cannot restrain their sporting proclivities in these sentences.

1888. *Pittsburg Times*, 26 Jan. BOILED DOWN TO A fine POINT, bondsmen are in demand.

1889. *Pall Mall Gas.*, 23 Sep., 2. 1. The smallest chit of a dressmaker's apprentice could give her POINTS about modern dress and its present rational tendency.

1892. *Ally Sloper's Half Holiday*, 19 Mar., 94, 2. Harry Payne is a clown of the old school, 'tis true, but still he can give POINTS and an easy licking to most, if not all, of his modern rivals.

1901. *Daily Tel.*, 19 Oct., 7, 1, 2. Would any person who was not mad say he was not himself? I have MADE MY POINT.

POINTER, *subs.* (American). — I. See POINT.

2. (venery). — The *penis*: see PRICK, and cf. SPORTSMAN'S TOAST.

POINT-OF-ATTRACTION, *subs. phr.* (venery). — The female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

1782. STEVENS, *Songs Comic and Satyrical*, 184. Beneath, where in centre Love buckles her Zone, The POINT OF ATTRACTION we place.

POISON, *subs.* (common). — I. Drink; TIPPLE (*g.v.*). NOMINATE YOUR POISON = 'What will you drink?': cf. quot. 1362, where POYSON = a draught, a drink.

1362. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman*, C. xxi. 52. And with a pole POYSON patten to hus lippes, And beden hym drynke.

d.1641. SUCKLING, *Brennouralt*, ii. 1. Mar. Come, your liquor and your stanzas . . . *Vil.* Since it must be, Give me the POISON then. [Drinks and spits.]

1827. LYTTON, *Pelham*, xlix. Champagne with the taste of a gooseberry, and hock with the properties of a pomegranate . . . young men . . . purchase POISON at a dearer rate than the most medicine-loving hypochondriac in England.

c.1863. ARTEMUS WARD [*Works* (1890) 160]. I found Dr. Schwazey, a leadin citizen, in a state of mind which showed that he'd bin histin in more'n his share of PIZEN.

1867. PINKERTON, *Great Adams Express Robbery*, 41. It's a cold day when Barney O'Hara will let a bog-trotter go dry. Name your POISON.

1886-96. MARSHALL, 'Pomes' from *the Pink 'Un* ('The Garret'), 20. 'My favourite POISON,' murmurs she, 'Is good old gin.'

1888. MILLIKEN, 'Arny Ballads, 50. Wot's yer PISON, old pal?

2. (common).—Anything unpleasant. Whence TO HATE LIKE POISON = to detest.

1530. PALSgrave, *Lang. Fran.*, 259. HATE me LIKE POYSON.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Leg.* 'Knight and the Lady.' And both HATING brandy, LIKE what some call PISON.

1847. ROBB, *Squatter Life*, 60. It got to be perfect PIZEN to hear.

POISONED, *adj.* (old).—Pregnant; LUMPY (*q.v.*).—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

POISON-PATED, *adj. phr.* (old).—Red-haired.—GROSE (1785).

POJAM, *subs.* (Harrow).—A poem: set as an exercise: a PORTMAN-TEAU-WORD (*q.v.*).

POKE (POGE, POGH, or POGUE), *subs.* (common).—1. A pocket; a bag; a sack; a pouch; a purse: generic: *cf.* PETER.—B. E. (c.1696); MARTIN (1754); GROSE (1785); VAUX (1819). Also (corrupt) PALKE and PAKKE.

ENGLISH SYNONYMS.—Bounce; brigh; bung; busy-sack; carpet-swab; cly; cod; haddock; hoxter;

kick; peter; pit; roger (also = portmanteau); roundabout; skin; sky (or skyrocket = rhyming); slash; suck.

FRENCH SYNONYMS.—*Une baguenaude*; *une balade* (*ballade*, or *valade*: *avaler* = to swallow); *un bouchon*; *une felouse* (*felouse*, *filoché*, *fouille*, or *fouillouse*); *une fondrière*; *un four* (or *un four banal*); *une grande*; *un gucularde* (or *une gucularde*); *une louche*; *une morlingue*; *une parfonde* (or *profonde*); *une prophète*; *un porte-morningue* (or *porte-mornis*).

ITALIAN SYNONYMS.—*Fegatello*; *figadello*; *faglia* (= Fr. *fouillouse*: MICHEL); *santa*; *scarsello* (= Fr. *escarcelle*); *scarpa*; *tuosa*; *savatta* (= Fr. *savate*).

1362. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman Creed* (WRIGHT (1847), line 791). Trewely, frere, quath I tho, To tellen the sothe, There is no peny in my PAKKE To payen for my mete. Ibid., *Vision*, l. 165. A POKE full of pardons.

1383. CHAUCER [SKEAT, *Works* (1894), 'Reeves Tale,' l. 358]. And in the floor, with nose and mouth to-broke, They walwe as doon two pigges in a POKE.

14 [7]. *Douce MS.*, 52. When me profereth the pigge, opon the POGHE.

1514. MORE, *A Sergeaunt wold lerne, &c.* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Post.*, iii. 128]. They roule and romble, they turne and tumble, as pygges do in a POKE.

d. 1529. SKELTON, *Bouge of Courtie* [DYCE, i. 48]. I have a stoppyngye oyster in my POKE.

d. 1549. BORDE [?], *Mylner of Abyngton* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Post.*, iii. 106]. Me thinke our POKE is waxen light.

1600. SHAKESPEARE, *As You Like It*, ii. 7. And then he drew a dial from his POKE.

1662. FULLER, *Worthies*, 62. Some will have the English so called from wearing a pouch or POAKE (a bag to carry their baggage in) behind their backs.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, lvii. The ladies were in their **POKEIEST** old head-gear.

1856. BEECHER-STOWE, *Dred*, i. 138. That's the way we girls studied at school, except a few **POKEY** ones, who wanted to be learned.

1864. *Studies for Stories*, i. 67. Amelia made me believe that there was plenty of property in their family, but that her sisters had a natural liking for living in that **POKEY** way, and for having no footman.

1882. ANSTEE, *Vice-Versa*, iv. They've a **POKY** little house in Brompton somewhere, and there was no dancing.

POLE, *subs.* (printers').—1. The weekly account for wages.

2. (venery).—The *penis*. Hence **POLING** (or **POLE-WORK**) = copulation.

Verb. (American University).—To study hard.

UP THE POLE, *phr.* (military).—In good report: also goody-goody; strait-laced.

2. (common).—Over-matched; in difficulty.

1886-96. MARSHALL, '*Pomes*' from the *Pink 'Un* ['The Word of a Policeman'], 73. But, one cruel day, behind two slops he chanced to take a stroll, And . . . he heard himself alluded to as being **UP THE POLE**.

1899. *Daily Mail*, 29 March, 5, 1. When there are nineteen Frenchmen to four Englishmen they were slightly **UP THE POLE**. Nineteen, you know, were rather too many for them.

LIKE A ROPE-DANCER'S POLE, *phr.* (old).—'Lead at both ends; a saying of a stupid sluggish fellow.'—GROSE (1785).

POLE-CAT, *subs. phr.* (old).—A whore: also a general reproach.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Merry Wives*, iv. 2. You witch! you hag! you **POLECAT**!

1607. DEKKER, *Northward Hoe*, i. 2. Your captains were wont to take their leaves of their London **POLE-CATS** (their wenches I mean, sir), at Dunstable.

POLE-WORK, *subs.* (colloquial).—A long, tedious business; **COLLAR-WORK** (*q.v.*).

See **POLE**.

POLICEMAN, *subs.* (common).—1. A fly: esp. a **BLUE-BOTTLE** (*q.v.*), which (in turn) = a constable.

1864. E. D. FORGUES, *Révue des deux Mondes*, 15 September, 170. Quand celui-ci (un *brig* de Londres) appelle un mouche un **POLICEMAN**, et quand celui-là qualifie de "mouche" un sergent de ville, l'un et l'autre font même rapprochement, bien qu'en sens inverse.

2. (thieves').—A mean fellow; a spy.

POLICE-NIPPERS, *subs. phr.* (common).—Handcuffs or leg-irons: see **DARBY'S BANDS**.

POLICY, *verb.* (American).—To gamble in lottery numbers: see quot. Also as *subs.*: whence **POLICY-SHOP** = a lottery office.

1882. MCCABE, *New York*, xxxix. **POLICY-DEALING** is one degree lower in infamy than the lottery business . . . The game consists in betting on certain numbers within the range of the lottery schemes being drawn at the noon or night drawing. Seventy-eight numbers usually make up the lottery-scheme, and the policy player can take any three of these numbers and bet that they will be drawn, either singly, or in such combinations as he may select. The single numbers may come out anywhere in the drawing, but the combination must appear as he writes it in making his bet. He pays one dollar for the privilege of betting, and receives a written slip containing the number or numbers on which he bets. If a single number is chosen and drawn, he wins 5 dollars; two numbers constitute a 'saddle', and if both are drawn the player wins from 24 to 32 dollars; three numbers make a 'gig', and win from 150 to 225 dollars; four numbers make a 'horse', and win 640 dollars. A 'capital straddle' is a bet that two numbers will be among the first three drawn, and wins 500 dollars.

POLISH, *verb.* (common).—To thrash; TO PUNISH (*q.v.*).

TO POLISH OFF, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To finish out of hand; to get rid of summarily: as a dinner, or an adversary.

1834. DOWLING, *Othello Travestie*, i. 6. Just wait awhile, And may be I won't POLISH you OFF in style.

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxvi. "Mayn't I POLISH that ere Job OFF, in the front garden?" said Mr. Weller. "Certainly not," replied Mr. Pickwick.

1847. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, xxxiv. 246. Bob had his coat off at once—he stood up to the Banbury man for three minutes, and POLISHED HIM OFF in four rounds easy. *Ibid.* (1855), *Newcomes*, ii. 252. He expressed repeatedly a desire that some one would speak ill of the Colonel, so that he might have an opportunity of POLISHING THAT INDIVIDUAL OFF in about two seconds.

1862. *Cornhill Mag.*, vi. 643. I used to steal something and take it to the marine-store dealers. . . . As I got on in thieving, I left home, and was soon POLISHED OFF into a first-class wire.

1870. *Sunday Times*, 21 May. If you keep a sharp look-out you may perchance see a critic, for, unfortunately, the Royal Academy cannot be POLISHED OFF at a private view like other exhibitions.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, i. He rolled into a man big enough to eat him, and POLISHED him OFF.

TO POLISH (PICK, or EAT) A BONE, *verb. phr.* (common).—To make a meal.—GROSE (1785).

TO POLISH THE KING'S IRON WITH THE EYEBROWS, *verb. phr.* (old).—'To look through the iron-grated windows of a prison.'—GROSE (1785).

POLITE. See DO, *verb.*, sense 4.

POLKA. THE MATRIMONIAL POLKA, *subs. phr.* (venery).—Copulation: see GREENS and RIDE.

POLL, *subs.* (Cambridge University).

—1. The ordinary examination for the B.A. degree: as distinguished from the Honours examination. Whence (2) a student taking the "pass" degree without "Honours." [Gr. *Hoi polloi* = the many.] Hence, TO GO OUT IN THE POLL = to take an ordinary degree. Also POLL-MAN and POLL-DEGREE.

1855. BRISTED, *Five Years in an English University*, 62. Several declared that they would GO OUT IN THE POLL.

1884. PAYN, *Cornhill*, Ap. 370. I took my degree, however—a first-class POLL; which my good folks at home believed to be an honourable distinction.

1889. *Academy*, 2 Mar. It is related of some Cambridge POLL-MAN that he was once so ill-advised as to desert a private tutor.

3. (nautical).—A woman: generic. Hence (specifically)=a prostitute; POLLY-HOOD = a state of wantonness (Walpole accused the ladies of his day of POLLY-HOOD, 'more fond than virtuous'); TO POLL UP = (1) to court; and (2) to live in concubinage.

1893. EMERSON, *Lippe*, ix. They began to give him money . . . a POLL gave him a bob.

4. (old).—A wig.—HALL (1708); GROSE (1785).

5. (thieves').—A decoy bitch. See FILL AND POLL.

Verb. 1. See FILL AND POLL.

2. (sporting).—To beat; to distance.

3. (common).—To snub.

TO POLL OFF, *adj. phr.* (common).—To get drunk: see DRINKS and SCREWED.

POLLARD, *subs.* (old).—A counterfeit coin, worth about a halfpenny, made abroad, and smuggled into England, *temp.* Ed. I. [Said to be named after the original maker.]

c.1350. *FABYAN, Chronicle*, ii. He sodeynly dampned certayne coynes of money, called POLLARDES.

POLLER. 1. *See* **PILL** AND **POLL**.
2. (old).—*See* quot.

1676. *Warning for Housekeepers*, 4. They carry in one hand a dark Glim, and in the other a **POLLER**, which is a dark Lanthorn and a Pistol.

POLL-PARROT, *subs. phr.* (common).—A talkative woman: also **POLL** and **POLLY**.

1865. *DICKENS, Our Mutual Friend*, xii. If it warn't wasting good sherry wine on you, I'd chuck this at you for **POLL** PARROTING with this man.

POLLRUMPTIOUS, *adj.* (colloquial).—Restive; unruly; foolishly confident.

POLLY, *subs.* (tramps').—1. Used as in quot.

1893. *EMERSON, Signor Lippe*, xiv. All I get is my kip and a clean mill tog, a pair of **POLLIES** and a stoock, and what few medazas I can make out of the lodgers and needies.

2. (common).—Apollinaris water.

1894. *G. EGERTON, Keynotes*, 59. The draught is transformed into lukewarm water, or **POLLY** without the 'dash' in it.

1894. *Illustrated Bits*, 31 Mar., 10, 3. What is more gratifying—he could drink. Not sips of weak tea, or "POLLY," but the Extra Sec of the right year, and plenty of it.

TO DO **POLLY**, *verb. phr.* (American prison).—To pick oakum; TO **MILL DOLL** (*q.v.*).—**MATSELL** (1859).

POLLYCON, *subs. phr.* (American students').—Political economy.

POLT, *subs.* (old).—A blow; a stroke.—*B. E.* (c.1696); *GROSE* (1785).

1782. *D'ARBLAY, Cecilia*, II. ix. Give me a good **POLT** of the head.

POLTROOM, *subs.* (old: now recognised).—A coward.—*B. E.* (c.1696).

1595. *SHAKESPEARE, 3 Henry VI.*, i. 1. Patience is for **POLTROOMS** such as he.

1778. *SHERIDAN, The Rivals*, iv. 1. Out, you **POLTROOM**!—you ha'n't the valour of a grasshopper.

POLTY (or **DOLTY**), *adj.* (cricketers').—Easy.

POLYPHEMUS, *subs.* (venery).—The penis: *see* **PRICK**. [The **MONOPS**, the **ONE-EYED ONE**.]

POMMEL. *See* **PUMMEL**.

POMPADOURS (**THE**), *subs.* (military).—The late 56th Regiment of Foot, now the 2nd Batt. Essex Regiment. [Tradition relates that, when facings were changed in 1764, the crimson not wearing well, the Colonel desired Blue. The authorities, however, objected, and he chose purple, a favourite colour of Madame de Pompadour, the mistress of Louis XV. of France.] Also "THE SAUCY **POMPADOURS**."

POMPAGINIS. **AQUA POMPAGINIS**, *subs. phr.* (old).—Pure water: *see* **AQUA**.—*GROSE* (1785).

POMPEY'S - PILLAR. **POMPEY'S - PILLAR** TO A **STICK OF SEALING-WAX**, *phr.* (old).—A fanciful bet: cf. **ALL LOMARD-STREET** TO A **CHINA ORANGE**, and **CHELSEA-COLLEGE** TO A **SENTRY-BOX**.

POMPKIN. *See* **PUMPKIN**.

PONTIUS PILATE'S COUNSELLOR, *subs. phr.* (legal).—A briefless barrister: Fr. *avocat de Pilate*. [Who, like Pilate, 'can find no (just) cause.']

PONTO, *subs.* (school).—New bread-crumbs kneaded into a pellet.

1900. *St. James's Gazette*, 15 Mar., 'Arnoldiana.' He [Mathew Arnold] was placed at the end of the great school, and, amid howls and jeers, pelted with a rain of PONTOS for some time.

PONY, *subs.* (old).—1. A bailiff: spec. an officer accompanying a debtor on a day's liberty.

2. (common).—Money. Hence, as *verb.* (TO POST THE PONY OR TO PONY UP) = to pay; to settle. See POST, *verb.*—GROSE (1785); VAUX (1819); BEE (1823).

1823. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry* [DICK], 6. It's every thing now o'days—to be able to flash the screens—sport the rhino—show the needful—POST THE PONY—nap the rent—stump the pew.

1824. *Atlantic Mag.*, 1. 343. Every man . . . vociferously swore that he had PONIED UP his 'quarter.'

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood* (1864), 240. I shan't let you off so easily this time, depend upon it. Come, POST THE PONY, or take your measure on that sod.

1838. J. C. NEAL, *Charcoal Sketches* [BARTLETT]. It was my job to pay all the bills. "Salix, PONY UP at the bar, and lend us a levy."

c. 1861-5. Song, 'A Portland Conscript' [B]. We hadn't no rich parients to PONY UP the tin, So we went unto the Provost, and there were mustered in.

1876. *New York Herald*, 16 Mar. General Rice is a bachelor of expensive habits . . . you must PONY UP and keep him going, for he can't live on less than 10,000 dollars a year.

3. (common). — Twenty-five pounds sterling: see RHINO.

1818. GREVILLE, *Memoirs*, 15 Aug. He is equally well amused whether the play is high or low, but the stake he prefers is fives and PONIES.

1837. DANCE, *The Country Squire*, i. 3. Geo. Look here, old man! (*Holding up note.*) Hor. Well, to be sure a fifty is two PONIES; and the hair will grow again.

1842. *Comic Almanack*, 327. A Mayor who, though he makes of Fifties—cronies, Yet has a most maternal love for PONIES.

1849. THACKERAY, *Pendennis*, lxi. The five-and-twenty pounds, or PONY, which the exemplary Baronet had received.

1857. KINGSLEY, *Two Years Ago*, xviii. The bet of a PONY which he offers five minutes afterwards.

1870. *Figaro*, 1 June. I have pulled off a couple of PONIES on the event.

1880. SIMS, *Three Brass Balls*, Pledge xv. "Here's a PONY for the young 'un, and directly I get a bit straight I'll send you some more."

1883. BRADDON, *Phantom Fortune*, xli. Sheafs of bank notes were being exchanged for counters which represented divers values, from the respectable PONY to the modest chip.

1892. *Pall Mall Gas.*, 23 Mar., 6, 3. Mr. Kisch said the bets were two PONIES The Master of the Rolls: What? Two what? Mr. Kisch said a PONY was £25.

1898. *Pink 'Un and Pelican*, 155. He would write a long letter . . . and reproach him for not sending the PONY he had been three times asked for.

4. (American school).—A translation; a BOHN (*q.v.*); a CRIB (*q.v.*): also as *verb.*

1832. *Tour Through College*, 30. Their lexicons, PONIES, and text-books were strewed round their lamps on the table.

1852. *Yale Tomahawk*, May. We learn that they do not PONY their lessons.

1854. *New England Mag.*, 208. In the way of PONY or translation to the Greek of Father Griesbach, the New Testament was wonderfully convenient.

1856. HALL, *College Words*, s.v. PONY. So-called, it may be, from the fleetness and ease with which a skilful rider is enabled to pass over places which to a common plodder may present obstacles.

5. (common).—A generic diminutive, prob. of turf origin: as PONY = a very small horse, and PONY-STAKES = an insignificant event. Whence (generally) in comparison, anything of small size, stature, or value. Hence, PONY = (1) a small glass ('a PONY of ale, or stout'), containing a gill, or (of wines and spirits) a mouthful; (2) a woman of very small stature. Also PONY-BRANDY = the best brandy: as served in a PONY-GLASS; PONY-PURSE = an impromptu collection: of small contributions. The word is becoming recognised: as in PONY-SAW, PONY-ENGINE, and PONY-TRUCK.

1885. *New York Journal*, Aug. 'I'm on the inside track,' said a PONY of beer as it went galloping down a man's throat.

1896. CRANE, *Maggie*, vii. Bring d'lady a big glass! What use is dat PONY?

6. (venery).—The *penis*: see PRICK.

d. 1706. BURNS, *Merry Muses*, 'Ye Hae Lien Wrang, Lassie.' Ye've let THE POUNIE o'er the dyke, And he's been in the corn.

7. (common).—A GAFFING-coin (*q.v.*); a piece showing either two heads or two tails. Whence, TO SELL THE PONY (OR LADY) = to toss for drinks: certain coins, say twelve, are placed one on top of another, all, save one, being turned the same way; the coins are cut, as at cards, and he who cuts the single piece has to pay, having BOUGHT THE PONY.

See JERUSALEM.

POODLE, *subs.* (common).—A dog: in sarcasm, without reference to breed.

POON, *verb.* (Winchester College).—To prop a piece of furniture with a wedge.—WRENCH.

POONA, *subs.* (costermongers').—A sovereign: *cf.* PONTE.

POONA GUARDS, *subs. phr.* (military).—The East Yorkshires, formerly the 15th Regiment of Foot: also "The Snappers."

POONT, *subs.* (common).—*In pl.* = the paps: see DAIRY.

POOP, *subs.* (old).—1. A worthless creature, a weakling, a NINCUM-POOP (*q.v.*); (2) the posteriors: see STERN and *verb.* sense 3; and (3) the face (*cf.* SHAKESPEARE, 1 Henry IV., *Falstaff to Bardolph, &c.*, 'Thou art our admiral, thou bearest the lantern in the POOP, but 'tis in the nose of thee').

1598. SHAKESPEARE, 1 Hen. IV., iii. 4. *Fals.* Thou art our admiral, thou bearest the lantern in the POOP, but 'tis in the nose of thee.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 67. He crawls up upon Deck, to the Piss-dale, where, while he manages his Whip-staff with one hand, he scratches his POOP with the other.

Verb. (old).—1. To overcome; to be set down.

1551. STILL, *Gammer Gurton's Needle*, ii. 1. But there ich was POWPTE indeed.

1609. SHAKESPEARE, *Pericles*, iv. 2. She quickly POOPED him, she made him roast meat for worms.

2. (venery).—To copulate: see GREENS and RIDE. Hence POOP-NODDY = copulation.

1606. *Wily Beguiled* [HAWKINS, *Eng. Drama*, iii. 310]. I saw them close together at POOP-NODDY.

3. (vulgar).—To break wind: also as *subs.*—BAILEY (1728).

Society" for reading and debates. [Supposed to be a contraction of 'Popina,' the rooms having been for many years over a cook-shop or confectioner's.—See *Public School Word Book*.]

1865. *Etoniana*, 207. The chief attraction of Pop lies in its being a sort of social club . . . and as the members are strictly limited (originally twenty-two, since increased to twenty-eight), to be elected into the society gives a boy a certain degree of prestige in the school.

Verb., with *subs.* and *adv.* (old).—Generic for more or less quick, unexpected, and explosive action. Whence, (1) = to shoot : as *subs.* (or POPPER) = (1) a shop, and (2) a firearm : spec. a pistol, but in quot. 1383, a dagger (HALL, 1714; GROSE, 1785; VAUX, 1819; and BEE, 1823); (2) = to crack—as a whip; (3) = to explode—as a hat when sat on, or a cork when drawn : as *subs.* = (a) a drink which fizzes from the bottle when opened—spec. ginger-beer, but in quot. 1836 = champagne (GROSE, 1785; BEE, 1823), and (b) the noise made in drawing a cork; and (4) = to rap out one's words : whence POPPING = babbling. Also, as *adv.* = suddenly or unexpectedly. See also many allied colloquialisms *infra*.

1383. CHAUCER, *Canterbury Tales*, 3929. A joly POPPERE baar he in his pouche.

1621. FLETCHER, *Pilgrim*, iii. 2. Into that bush Pop goes his pate, and all his face is comb'd over.

1724. HARPER, 'Frisky Moll's Song' (*Harlequin Jack Sheppard*). Two POPPS Had my Boman when he was ta'en.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Roderick Random*, viii. A pair of POPPS silver mounted . . . I took them from the captain. *Ibid.* (1749), *Gil Blas* (ROUTLEDGE), 345. We were startled out of our sleep by the report of mucketry POPPING so near.

1821. HAGGART, *Life*, 98. I plunged my fam into my sack, as if for a POP.

1829. MONCRIEFF, *Giovanni in London*, ii. 1. Made up your mind to have a POP at him.

1830. LYTTON, *Paul Clifford* (1854), 296. Lord love ye, they says as 'ow you go to all the fine places in ruffles, with a pair of silver POPPS in your waistcoat pocket!

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, iii. v. His crape-covered vizard drawn over his eyes, His tol by his side and his POPPS in his pocket.

1834. BUCKSTONE, *Agnes de Vere*, ii. 3. I've an excellent case of POPPERS here that I always keep loaded for such occasions.

1836. MILNER, *Turpin's Ride to York*, i. 3. It is not even safe to hunt without POPPS in your pocket. *Ibid.* Damn the POPPER! we must be off to Yorkshire now.

1836. HOOD, *Miss Kilmansegg* [*Works* (1846), i. 246]. Home-made POP that will not foam.

1837. BARNHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, i. 277. With wine and naygus and imperial POP.

1844. MARRYAT, *The Settlers*, i. vi. 103. "Fowling-pieces,—they are bird-guns, I believe,—no use at all; muskets are soldiers' tools,—no use; pistols are POPPS, and nothing better."

1845. BROWNING, *Englishman in Italy*. And all around the glad church lie old bottles With gunpowder stopped, Which will be, when the Image re-enters, Religiously POPPED. *Ibid.* More POPPERS bang.

1847. PORTER, *Quarter Race*, &c., 95. He'd POP his whip, and stretch his chains, and holler 'wo, gee!'

1848. JONES, *Sketches of Travel*, 150. The rascal went to his coach, jumped on the box, POPPED his whip and wiggled his fingers at me as he drew off.

1848. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, Intro. Past noontime they went trampin' round An' nary thing to POP at found.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, &c., i. 187. Not above one-eighth . . . but sell with their POP some other article.

1857. HOLMES, *Autocrat of Breakfast Table*, viii. A hat which has been POPPED, or exploded by being sat down upon, is never itself again afterwards.

1513-25. SKELTON [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, l. 394. We see the phrase TO POP FORTH saws; at p. 235, POPPING means babbling; our POP still implies noise, as pop-gun].

1575. *Touchstone of Complexions*, 124. Still to dilate and open his breaste with coughing, hawking, neeing and POPPING or smacking with the mouth.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Hamlet*, v. 2. He that hath killed my king, and whored my mother, POPPED IN between the election and my hopes. *Ibid.*, *King John*, i. That is my brother's plea . . . The which if he can prove, a' POPS ME OUT at least from fair five hundred pounds a year. *Ibid.* (1602), *Trifolius and Cressida*, iv. 5. That's no argument for kissing now; for thus POPPED Paris in his hardiment, and parted thus you and your argument.

1600. HEYWOOD, 1 Ed. IV. (PEARSON, *Works* (1874), i. 47). My daughter Nell shall POP a posset VPON thee, when thou goest to bed.

1626. FLETCHER, *Noble Gent.*, i. 1. And do you POP me OFF with this slight answer.

d. 1631. DONNE, *Sermons*, iv. So, diving in a bottomless sea, they POP some times ABOVE the water to take breath.

d. 1674. MILTON, *Def. Humb. Remonst.* [Century]. These our Prelates, who are the true successors of those that PORT them INTO the other world.

1706. WARD, *Wooden Worla*, 'To Reader.' Finding . . . the air begin to change apace, and wet, thick, cloudy weather POP IN at once upon us.

d. 1745. SWIFT (quoted in Century). Others have a trick of POPPING UP AND DOWN every moment from their paper to their audience, like an idle schoolboy.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 113. I know how to tickle a girl in a stiff gown, or an actress. You swagger . . . with an easy, impudent assurance, and POP THE QUESTION without making any bones about it. *Ibid.*, 143. When they had been together long enough, IN POPPED I, with a message to the enamoured spark.

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, vi. 103. Afraid he would . . . POP OUT THE QUESTION which he had not the courage to put,

1764. FOOTE, *Patron*, i. O fie! what chance have I there? Indeed, if Lady Pepperpot should happen to POP OFF—

1773. GOLDSMITH, *Stoops to Conquer*, ii. When company comes you are not to POP OUT and stare, and then run in again.

1773. THOMPSON, *Fair Quaker of Deal* [Shadwell's comedy recast], ii. 3. If I could get a lover upon the first POPPING OF THE QUESTION.

1835. DICKENS, *Sketches by Boz*, 'Watkins Tottle.' I suppose you POPPED THE QUESTION more than once.

1837. BARNHAM, *Ingold. Legends* (1862), 249. His abruptness in POPPING THE QUESTION So soon after dinner disturbed her digestion. *Ibid.* (1857), 2 S. 29. I fear by his looks Our friend, Francois Xavier, has POPPED OFF THE HOOKS. *Ibid.* (1900), 141. On the fire, too, she POPS some nice mutton-chops.

1841. *Punch*, 1. 153. A considerable old aunt, who had kindly POPPED OFF in the nick of time.

1851. SMEDLEY, *Lewis Arundell*, iii. Some of the fools about here wanted me to put up for the county if he POPPED OFF.

1853. LYTTON, *My Novel*, v. xvii. 'Please the pigs,' then said Mr. Avenel to himself, 'I shall POP THE QUESTION.'

1855. TAYLOR, *Still Waters*, i. I'll deposit my carpet-bag in my dressing room, and then POP IN on Emmy.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, I. She was so handsome, and so clever . . . that he had been on the point of POPPING THE fatal QUESTION ever so many times. *Ibid.* (1862), *Philip*, xvi. Eat your porridge now, little ones. Charlotte, POP a bit of butter in Carrick's porridge.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown Folks*, 37. One of the sort that might POP OFF any time.

1871. *Figaro*, 18 Mar., The Penalty for POPPING. To Bachelors and Widowers: If you are about to POP THE QUESTION, think of Breach of Promise at Nisi Prius, and don't. He who POPS and does not wed, By a jury will be bled.

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*, 313. Travellers well know how they must put the price when doing business with Cheap John now that he is keeping a shop. It's no use for them to POP IT ON,

1888. BLACK, *Houseboat*, viii. While some of the small fry POPPED OUT their heads to have a look.

1892. CHEVALIER, *Little Nipper*. Let's POP INTO the 'Broker's Arms' and 'ave a drop o' beer. *Ibid.*, *Wot Cher!* Your rich Uncle Tom of Camberwell, POPPED OFF recent, which it ain't a sell.

POPE, *subs.* (old: now provincial). —A term of contempt: *e.g.*, 'What a POPE of a thing!' Also, DRUNK AS A POPE = very drunk (Benedict XII., a glutton and a wine-bibber gave rise to the expression, *Bibamus papaliter*): *see* DRINKS and SCREWED; TO BE (or PLAY) POPE-HOLY = to be sanctimonious; to play the PRIG (*q.v.*) or hypocrite; TO KNOW NO MORE THAN THE POPE OF ROME = to know nothing. —RAY (1670). Ray also gives, 'If you would be a POPE, you must think of nothing else.'

1360. CHAUCER, *Rom. of Rose* [*Works* (1662), iii.]. Another thing was doen . . . That seemed like an ipocrite, And it was cleped POPE HOLY.

1362. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman*, sig. T, ii. (1561). And none so singular by himselfe, nor so POPE HOLY.

d.1460. LYDGATE, *Prohemy of a Mariage* (MS., Harl., 372, 51). And for POPHOLY and nyce loke wel aboute.

1509. BARCLAY, *Skip of Fooles* (1570), 57. Ouer sad or proude, disceitfull and POPE HOLY.

d.1529. SKELTON, *A Replycation* [DYCE, i. 208]. POPHOLY and penyasse presumption. *Ibid.*, *Garlande of Laurell*, 611. Fals forgers of mony, for kownnage atteintid, POPE HOLY ypcocrytis.

d.1536. TYNDALE, *Ans. Sir T. More* [Parker Soc. (1850), 36]. There be POPE-HOLY, which . . . resist the righteousness of God in Christ.

1620. *Westward for Smelts* (HALLIWELL). He, having no answe, began to curse and ban, bidding a POPE on all women.

1706. *Oxford Jest*, 93. They bid him read. 'Read! truly, my Lord,' says he, 'I can read NO MORE THAN THE POPE OF ROME.'

POPE-OF-ROME, *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—Home

POPERINE-PEAR, *subs. phr.* (venery).—The penis: *see* PRICK.

1595. SHAKESPEARE, *Romeo and Juliet*, ii. 1. Oh, Romeo! that she were, oh, that she were an open arse, thou a POPPERIN PEAR!

1632. ROWLEY, *Woman Never Vaxed* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (HAZLITT), xii.]. I requested him to pull me A Katherine pear, and had I not look'd to him, He would have mistook and given me a POPPERIN.

1822. NARES, *Glossary*, s.v. POPE-RIN . . . In the quarto edition of *Romeo and Juliet* was a passage, afterwards very properly omitted, containing a foolish and coarse quibble on the name.

POPE'S-EYE, *subs. phr.* (common). —The thread of fat in a leg of mutton.

1852. SHIRLEY BROOKS, *Miss Violet*. The oratorical undertaker having made a most successful joke about the POPE'S-EYE on a leg of Protestant mutton.

1869. BLACKMORE, *Lorna Doone*, ii. You should have . . . the POPE'S-EYE from the mutton.

POPE'S- (or TURK'S-) HEAD, *subs. phr.* (common).—A round broom, of bristles or feathers, with a long handle.

d.1849. EDGEWORTH, *Love and Law*, i. v. You're no witch if you don't see a cobweb as long as my arm. Run, run, O child, for the POPE'S-HEAD.

1852. SAVAGE, *Reuben Medicott* (1864), i. iii. You are not going to send the boy to school with this ridiculous head of hair; why, his schoolfellows will use him for a POPE'S HEAD.

POPE'S-NOSE, *subs. phr.* (common). —A chicken's rump: also PARSON'S-NOSE.—GROSE (1785).

POPE'S-SIZE, *subs. phr.* (trade).—*See* quot.

1888. *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. vii. 225. A year or two ago I bought a merino vest. On the bill I noticed P.S. after it, and by enquiry elicited that P.S. stood for POPE'S SIZE, and that POPE'S SIZE meant short and stout.

POP-GUN. See POT-GUN.

POPINJAY, *subs.* (old).—A general term of contempt: specifically (1) a chatterer; and (2) a fop.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *1 Hen. IV.*, i. 3. "I then, all smarting with my wounds being cold, To be so pestered with a POPINJAY, Answered neglectingly I know not what."

1599. JONSON, *Every Man Out of His Humour*, ii. 2. A number of these POPINJAYS there are.

1600. MASSINGER and FIELD, *Fatal Dowry*, iii. 1. *Nov. jun.* What have I done, sir, To draw this harsh unsavoury language from you? *Rom.* Done, POPINJAY! why, dost thou think.

POPLARS (POPPELARS, POPLER, or PAPLAR), *subs.* (Old Cant).—Porridge: spec. milk-porridge.—HARMAN (1576); HEAD (1665); B. E. (c. 1696); COLES (1724); GROSE (1785).

1608. DEKKER, *Lanthorne and Candlelight* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 3]. The Ruffin cly the nab of the Harmaubeck, If we maund . . . POPLARS of yarum, he cuts, bing to the Ruffmans.

1611. MIDDLETON and DEKKER, *Rearing Girl*, v. 1. A gage of ben Rom-bouse . . . Is benar than . . . Peck, pennam, lap, or POPLER.

1641. BROME, *Jovial Crew*, ii. Here's Pannam and Lap, and good POPLARS of Yartum.

1707. SHIRLEY, *Triumph of Wit* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 36]. With lap and POPLARS held I tack.

POPLET (POPELET or POPPET), *subs.* (old).—See quot. 1694: also as an endearment.

1694. DUNTON, *Ladies Dict.*, s.v. POPELET. A puppet, or young wench.

1843. SELBY, *Antony and Cleopatra Married and Settled*. There, there's a POPPET; hush, hushaby—hush! it's very like me—very, just the same interesting twist of the eyes, and insinuating turn of the nose.

2. (old).—A corpulent person.—CHAUCER (*d.* 1400).

POP-LOLLY, *subs. phr.* (cheap-jacks').—A sweetmeat: *i.e.*, LOLLIPOP.

1860. HINDLEY, *Cheap-Jack*, 100. Ever and anon bawling out in a Billingsgate voice, 'Two ounces a penny again—lolly-pop and POP-LOLLY.

POPPED, *adj.* (tailors').—Annoyed. POPPED AS A HATTER = very angry.

POPPER. See POP, *subs.* 1.

POPPY-COCK, *subs. phr.* (American).—Nonsense; BOSH (*g.v.*). Also POPPY-COCK RACKET.

POP-SHOP. See POP, *verb.* 5.

POP-SQUIRT, *subs. phr.* (American).—A jackanapes.

POPSY-WOPSY, *subs. phr.* (common).—A foolish endearment.

1892. *Ally Sloper's Half-Holiday*, 19 Mar., 90, 3. Bless me if the little POPSY-WOPSY hasn't been collecting all the old circus hoops and covering them with her old muslin skirts.

POPULAR, *adj.* (colloquial American).—Conceited.

1862. LOWELL, *Biglow Papers*, 2 S. Int. POP'LAR as a hen with one chicken.

P.P. See PLAY or PAY.

PORK, *subs.* (old).—1. A pig-headed one: *cf.* PIG, *subs.* 1.

1645. MILTON, *Colasterion* . . . I mean not to dispute philosophy with this PORK.

2. (tailors').—A garment spoiled in cutting or making; goods returned on hand: also FIG: *cf.* COLD FIG.

3. (venery).—MUTTON (*q.v.*): *cf.* FLESH, MEAT, GREENS, BEEF, FISH, &c.

TO CRY PORK, *verb. phr.* (old).
—To act as undertaker's tout.—GROSE (1785).

PORKER, *subs.* (common).—I. A young hog.—GROSE (1785).

1725. POPE, *Odyssey*, xiv. 86. Where the fat PORKERS slept beneath the sun.

2. (old).—A Jew.—GROSE (1785).

3. (old).—A sword.—B. E. (c.1696).

1688. SHADWELL, *Sq. of Alsatia*, i. [Works (1720), iv. 18]. The captain whipt his PORKER out.

PORKOPOLIS, *subs.* (American).—Chicago: formerly Cincinnatti: *cf.* COTTONOPOLIS.

1888. *American Humourist*, Aug. Since Cincinnatti ceased to be PORKOPOLIS.

1901. *Daily Telegraph*, 7 Jan., 8, 4. The firm of Armour and Co. is one of the chief of those huge meat-packing concerns which have given to Chicago its epithet of "PORKOPOLIS."

PORK-PIE, *subs. phr.* (obsolete).—A hat: modish in the Sixties. [In shape resembling a pork-pie, or the Spanish 'toreador,' fashionable in the Nineties.]

186[?]. *Music Hall Song*, 'In the Strand.' A PORK-PIE hat with a little feather.

1860. *Punch*, xxxix. 118. 'O, look here, Bill; here's a swell with a PORK-PIE on his head!'

1863. BRADDON, *Aurora Floyd*, xii. She rode across country, wearing a hat which provoked considerable criticism,—a hat which was no other than the now universal turban, or PORK PIE, but which was new to the world in the autumn of fifty-eight.

1869. C. READE, *Foul Play*, xxxii. She made herself a sealskin jacket and PORK-PIE hat.

1883. BRET HARTE, *In the Carquinez Woods*, iv. The hat thus procured a few days later became, by the aid of a silk handkerchief and a blue-jay's feather, a fascinating PORK-PIE.

PORPOISE, *subs.* (common).—A stout man; FORTYGUTS (*q.v.*) = Fr. *Saint-Lichard*, or *Saint-Pansart*.

PORRIDGE. TO COOK THE PORRIDGE, *verb. phr.* (Scots).—To contrive and execute a design.

1814. SCOTT, *Waverley*, iii. 354. 'But wha COOKIT THE PARRIDGE for him?' exclaimed the Bailie, 'I wad like to ken that:—wha, but your honour's to command.'

See BREATH.

PORRIDGE-BOWL, *subs. phr.* (common). The stomach; the BREAD-BASKET (*q.v.*); *see* VICTUALLING OFFICE.

PORRIDGE-DISTURBER, *sub. phr.* (pugilistic).—A drive in the pit of the stomach.

PORTABLE, *adv.* (old).—'Pocketable.'—B. E. (c.1696).

PORTAGE, *subs.* (old: now recognised).—'Carriage of anything, whether by land or water.'—B. E. (c.1696).

PORTAL TO THE BOWER OF BLISS, *subs. phr.* (literary).—The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE.

1647-8. HERRICK, *Poems* [HAZLITT, *Works*, ii. 373]. This loue-guarded parradice—Above the entrance there is written this, This is THE PORTAIL TO THE BOWER OF BLISSE.

PORTCULLIS (or **PORTCULLIS MONEY**), *subs. phr.* (old colloquial).—Money, of various values, *temp.* Elizabeth, struck for the East India Company (est. 1599): also **INDIA MONEY** [it bore a **PORTCULLIS verso**].

1599. JONSON, *Every Man Out of Humour*, iii. 6. It comes well, for I had not so much as the least **PORTCULLICK** of coyn before.

PORTER, *subs.* (old: long recognised).—‘Hirelings to carry Burthens, Beasts of Burthen, or else Menial Servants set to guard the gates in a great Man’s House.’—B.E. (c.1696).

PORTERHOUSE-STEAK, *subs. phr.* (American).—A chop from the middle of the sirloin—with upper and undercut: occasionally, but improperly, from the wing-rib.

1870. CLEMENS, *Innocents Abroad*, xiii. One would not be at all surprised to hear him say: ‘A mutton-roast to-day, or will you have a nice **PORTERHOUSE-STEAK**?’

PORTER’S-KNOT, *subs. phr.* (obsolete).—A large bob of hair, with a hanging curl: fashionable with women in the Sixties: also **WATERFALL**, **CATARACT**, &c.

PORT-HOLE, *subs.* (venery).—(1) The fundament: *see* **BUM**; and (2) the female *pudendum*: *see* **MONOSYLLABLE**.

1664. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1st ed.) 15. Bounce cries the **PORT-HOLE**, out they fly, And make the world dance Barnaby.

PORTIONIST, *subs.* (University).—*See* **POSTMASTER**.

PORTMANTLE (**PORTMANTICK** or **PORTMANTUA**), *subs.* (once literary: now vulgar).—A corruption of ‘portmanteau.’

[?] *Robin Hood and the Butcher* [CHILD, *Ballads*, v. 38]. And out of the sheriff’s **PORTMANTLE** He told three hundred pounds.

1617-20. HOWELL, *Letters*, 127 [OLIPHANT, *New English*, ii. 79. Buckingham, in his Spanish journey carries a **PORTMANTLE** under his arm; our form of the word was to come seven years later.]

1623. MABBE, *Gusman* (1630) 158 [OLIPHANT, *New English*, ii. 86. We see **PORTMANTEAU** in page 158, and the form **PORTMANTUA** in the Index; our mantuamaker is a relic of this confusion].

1690. HACKET, *Life of Williams*, i. 160. He would linger no longer, and play at cards in King Philip’s palace till the messenger with the **PORT-MANTICK** came from Rome.

1726. VANBRUGH, *Provoked Husband*, i. 1. My lady’s gear alone were as much as filled four **PORTMANTEL** trunks.

1753. MRS. LENNOX, *Henrietta*, v. x. He sent orders to a servant to bring his **PORTMANTUA**.

PORTMANTEAU-WORD, *subs. phr.* (common).—A made vocable packed with two or more meanings: *e.g.*, slithy = lithe + slimy; torrible = torrid + horrible; **SQUARSON** = squire + parson; **SQUIRSHOP** = squire + bishop. [The name was Lewis Carroll’s, the method Bishop Sam. Wilberforce’s.]

1876. LEWIS CARROLL, *Hunting of the Snark*, Preface. [Concerning] **PORTMANTEAU-WORDS**—take the two words ‘fuming’ and ‘furious.’ Make up your mind that you will say both words, but leave it unsettled which you will say first . . . if you have that rarest of gifts, a perfectly balanced mind, you will say ‘frumious.’

1892. *Globe*, 12 Oct., i. 4. In these circumstances it is really surprising that so few of these **PORTMANTEAU WORDS**, as Lewis Carroll called them, are perpetrated.

1767. RAY, *Proverbs* [BOHN], 175. To be tost FROM POST TO FILLORY.

1898. BRADDON, *Rough Justice*, 18. Hunted from PILLAR TO POST.

Other COLLOQUIALISMS are : —TO RUN (or KNOCK) THE HEAD AGAINST A POST = to go blindly ; STIFF AS A POST = unyielding : as a gatepost in the ground ; TO TALK (or PREACH) TO A POST = to talk to deaf ears : hence DEAF AS A POST = as deaf as may be ; TO RIDE A POST = to copulate ; TO GO TO THE POST = to visit a woman ; TO TALK POST = to speak hastily ; POST ALONE = solitary ; TO KISS THE POST = (see KISS, and add quotes. 1529 and 1548) ; TO HOLD UP A POST (or THE WALL) = to cling for support when drunk. See also BEDPOST ; KNIGHT ; NICK.

1400. *Hymns to Virgin and Christ* [E. E. T. S.], 61. [Here conscience is scornfully told] TO PRECHE TO THE POST.

d.1529. SKELTON, *Phyllis Sparrowe*, 715. Troilus also hath lost On her moche loue and cost, And now must KYS THE POST.

1548. BARCLAY, *Eglogues* (1570), ii. sig. B liiii. Yet from beginning absent if thou be, Eyther shalt thou lose thy meat and KISSE THE POST.

1582. STANIHURST, *Cenid*, iv. 492. Her self left also she deemed POST ALOAN, and soaly from woonted coompanye singled.

1599. SHAKESPEARE, *Hen. V.*, iii. 2. A' never broke any man's head but his own, and that was AGAINST A POST when he was drunk.

d.1608. SACKVILLE, *Stafford D. of Buck.*, st. 49. She chang'd her cheer, and left me POST ALONE.

1632. SHIRLEY, *The Changes*, i. 1. 'Twere no good manners to speak hastily to a gentlewoman, to TALK POST (as they say) to his mistress.

POST-AND-RAIL, *subs. phr.* (Australian). — A wooden match ; POST-AND-RAIL TEA = ill-made tea, with floating stalks and leaves.

1851. *Australasian*, 298. Hyson-skin and POST-AND-RAIL TEA have been superseded by Mocha, claret, and cognac.

1855. MUNDY, *Our Antipodes*, 163. A hot beverage in a tin pot, which richly deserved the colonial epithet of POST-AND-RAIL TEA, for it might well have been a decoction of 'split stuff,' or 'ironbark shingles,' for any resemblance it bore to the Chinese plant.

1870. BRAIM, *New Homes*, i. The shepherd's wife kindly gave us the invariable mutton-chop and damper, and some POST-AND-RAIL TEA.

1883. KEIGHLEY, *Who are You?* 36. Then took a drink of tea . . . Such as the swagmen in our goodly land Have with some humour named the POST-AND-RAIL.

POSTERIOBS, *subs.* (old colloquial).

—1. The buttocks ; and (2) the after part.

1594. SHAKESPEARE, *Love's Lab. Lost*, v. 1, 94. It is the King's . . . pleasure . . . to congratulate the princess at her pavilion in the POSTERIOBS of this day, which the rude multitude call the afternoon.

POSTERN, *subs.* (venery). —1. The fundament ; also POSTERN-DOOR : see MONOCULAR-EYEGGLASS ; (2) the female *pudendum* ; also POSTERN GATE TO THE ELYSIAN FIELDS (HERRICK) : see MONOSYLLABLE.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* [Works (1725), 139]. And thrice her latest breath did roar, In hollow Sound at POSTERN-DOOR. *Ibid.* (1st ed., p. 8). Whom Jove observing to be so stern, In the wise conduct of his POSTERN.

1719. DUFFY, *Pills to Purge*, i. 264. So Siasly shone with Beauty's rays Reflecting from her POSTERN grace.

1749. ROBERTSON of Struan, *Poems*, 83. So to a House of Office streight A School-Boy does repair, To ease his POSTERN of its Weight.

POST-HORN, *subs. phr.* (common).

—The nose : also PASTE-HORN : see CONK.

POSTILLION. See ST. GEORGE.

POSTILLION OF THE GOSPEL, *subs. phr.* (old).—A gabbling parson.—GROSE (1785).

POSTMAN, *subs.* (obsolete legal).—*See* quot. [The old Court of Exchequer is now merged in the High Court of Justice.]

1765-9. *BLACKSTONE, Com.*, iii. iii. Note. In the courts of exchequer, two of the most experienced barristers, called the **POST-MAN** and the **tub-man** (from the places in which they sit), have also a precedence in motions.

POSTMASTER, *subs.* (University).—An exhibitor of Merton College : also **PORTIONIST**.

1853. *BRADLEY, Verdant Green*, vii. I remember Mr. Larkyns . . . telling us that the son of one of his old friends had been a **POSTMASTER** of Merton.

1886. *Oxford Guide* [S. J. & C.]. The **POSTMASTERS** anciently performed the duties of Choristers, and their payment for this duty was six shillings and fourpence per annum.

POSTMASTER GENERAL, *subs. phr.* (old).—The prime minister : 'who has the patronage of all posts and places.'—GROSE (1785).

POST-MORTEM, *subs. phr.* (Cambridge).—The examination after failure.

1844. *Puck*, 13. I've passed the **POST-MORTEM** at last.

POST-ANOINTER, *subs. phr.* (old).—A house painter. — GROSE (1785).

POST-OFFICE. A LETTER IN THE **POST-OFFICE**, *subs. phr.* (American).—A flying shirt-tail.

POST-OFFICE BIBLE, *subs. phr.* (Post-office).—The London Delivery Book.

POST-OFFICE PRAYER-BOOK, *subs. phr.* (Post-office).—The Post-office Guide.

POT, *subs.* (old colloquial).—A quart : the quantity contained in a **POT**. Whence as *verb.* = to drink : also (American) **TO POTATE** ; **POTTING** = **BOOZING** (*q.v.*) ; **POTATIONS** (recognised) = a drinking-bout ; **POT-HOUSE** (or **SHOP**) = a beer-shop, a **LUSH-CRIB** (*q.v.*) ; **POT-HOUSE** (or **COFFEE-HOUSE**) **POLITICIAN** = an ignorant, irresponsible spouter of politics ; **POT-COMPANION** = (1) a cup-comrade, and (2) an habitual drunkard : as also = **POT-FURY** (also = drunkenness), -**KNIGHT**, -**HEAD**, -**LEACH**, -**MAN**, -**POLISHER**, -**SUCKER**, -**WALLOPER**, **POTATOR**, **POT-STER**, **TOSS-POT**, and **ROB-POT** ; **POT-PUNISHMENT** = compulsory tippling ; **POT-QUARREL** = a drunken squabble ; **POT-SICK** (or -**SHOT**) = drunk ; **POT-SURE** (-**HARDY**, or -**VALIANT**) = emboldened by liquor : *cf.* **DUTCH COURAGE** (B. E., c.1696, and GROSE, 1785) ; **POT-BELLIED** = fat, bloated in stomach as from guzzling : also **POT-BELLY** (or **GUTS**) = a big-bellied one ; **POT-REVEL** = a drunken frolic ; **POT-MANIA** (or **POTOMANIA**) = dipsomania ; **SIR** (or **MADAM**) **PINT-POT** = a host (or hostess) ; **POT-BOY** (or -**MAN**) = a bar-scurllion : whence **POT-BOY-DOM**.

1560. *BECON, Works* [Parker Soc.], 276. Good wife **PINT-POT**.

1584. [? **MONDAY**], *Weakest to Wall*, iii. 4. Now, mine host **ROB-POT**, empty-can, beer-barrel.

1594. *LVLV, Mother Bombie*, iii. 2. *Dro.* How sped'st thou after thy **POTTING** ? *Ris.* Nay, my master rung all in the taverne, and thrust all out.

1597. *HALL, Satires*, i. iii. With some **POT-FURY** . . . they sit and muse.

1598. *Lemaitre on Painting* [NARES]. But these base fellows I leave in their ale-houses, to take **POT-PUNISHMENT** of each other once a day, till, &c.

1508. SHAKESPEARE, *1 Hen. IV.*, ii. 4, 438. Peace, good PINT-POT: peace, good tickle-brain. *Ibid.*, *2 Henry VI.*, ii. 3. And here's a POT of good double beer. *Ibid.* (1602), *Othello*, ii. 3. I learned it in England, where, indeed, they are most potent in POTTING: your Dane, your German, and your swag-bellied Hollander . . . are nothing to your English.

1614. *Time's Whistle* [E. E. T. S.], 59. One POT-COMPANION and his fashion I will describe.

1620. FELTHAM, *Resolves*, 84. It is less labour to plow than to POT IT.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. And being mad perhaps, and hot POT-SHOT, A crazed crowne or broken pate hath got. *Ibid.* This valiant POT-LEACH that upon his knees Has drunke a thousand potiles up-ne-freese.

c. 1650. BRATHWAYTE, *Barnaby's J.* (1723), iii. 119. Kindly drink to one another Till POT-HARDY. *Ibid.*, 167. If thou dost love thy flock, leave off to POT.

1651. CARTWRIGHT, *Royal Slave* [NARES]. Arc. Faith, landlord. Mol. I'd have sworn thou hadst bin of a better nature, than to remember POT-QUARRELS.

1653. WALTON, *Complete Angler*, 181. Let's each man drink a POT for his morning's draught.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, l. xl. Well-antidoted with POT-PROOF armour.

1659. *Legend of Captain Jones* [NARES]. When these rough gods beheld him thus secure, And arm'd against them like a man POT-SURE.

1703. WARD, *London Spy*, xv. 366. He had made himself POT VALIANT with his Countryman's Liquor.

d. 1704. L'ESTRANGE, *Quevado* [Latham]. For fuddling they shall make the best POT-COMPANION in Switzerland knock under the table.

1715. HEARNER, *Diary*, 11 Oct. Tho' he [a posture-master] is a well-grow'n fellow yet he will appear . . . as huncht-back'd, POTT-BELLYD, sharp-breasted.

1729. SWIFT, *Directions to Servants*, iv. They will wait until you slip into a neighbouring ale-house to take a POT with a friend.

b. 1744. ARBUTHNOT and POPE, *Martin Scriblerus* [Ency. Dict.]. He will find himself a forked straddling animal, and a POT-BELLY.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 179. A long bench, such as usually graces a POT-HOUSE porch. *Ibid.*, 266. He told me . . . they could only be COFFEE-HOUSE POLITICIANS. *Ibid.* (1771), *Humphrey Clinker*, l. 30. Like a man who has drunk himself POT-VALIANT, I talked to her in such a style of authority and resolution, as produced a most blessed effect.

1772. GRAVES, *Spiritual Quixote*, iv. viii. You POT-GUTTED rascal.

1803. LAMB, *To Coleridge*, 13 Ap. Last night . . . a pipe, and some generous Port, and *King Lear* had their effects as solacera. I went to bed POT-VALIANT.

1817. GRAY, *To Mason* [LATHAM]. He appears to be near forty; a little POT-BELLIED and thick-shouldered, otherwise no bad figure.

1834. SOUTHEY, *The Doctor*, xlv. Barnabee, the illustrious POTATOR, saw there the most unbecoming sight that he met with in all his travels.

1836. M. SCOTT, *Tom Cringle*, xii. The little POT-VALIANT master, primed with two tumblers of grog, in defiance of the Captain's presence, fairly fastened on him.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, li. 'Perhaps we had better retire,' whispered Mr. Pickwick. 'Never, sir,' rejoined Pott, POT-VALIANT in a double sense, 'never.' *Ibid.*, lii. A sequestered POT-SHOP on the remotest confines of the Borough.

1849. KINGSLEY, *Alton Locke*, xiii. It is a part of his game to ingratiate himself with all POT-BOY-DOM.

1849. MACAULAY, *Hist. Eng.*, v. The coarse dialect which he had learned in the POT-HOUSES of Whitechapel.

1851. S. JUDD, *Margaret*, iii. The old man is still mecurial; but his POT-VALIANTRY is gone.

1851. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, ii. 17. I could get a POT-BOY's place again, but I'm not so strong as I were, and its slavish work in the place I could get.

1855. KINGSLEY, *Westward Ho*, xv. She was too good for a poor POT-HEAD like me.

1860. DICKENS, *Uncommercial Traveller*, xiii. The POTMAN thrust the ast brawling drunkards into the street.

1864. *Eton School Days*, viii. Bird's-eye's patrons would . . . sit in his cottage and smoke and drink beer, for they were potent at POTTING.

166a. *Rump Songs*, ii. 44. If Moneak be turn'd Scot, The Rump GOES TO POT, And the good Old cause will miscarry.

1665. HEAD, *English Rogue* (1874), i. x. 77. We will make his Till spring a leak for it, or his Goods GO TO POT, and break him at last.

1680. DRVDEN, *Prol. to Univ.*, *Oxford*, 15 (Globe, 443). Then all you heathen wits shall GO TO POT For disbelieving of a Popish plot.

1686. HIGDEN, *On Tenth Satire of Juvenal*, 13. The Founder's four-nace grows red-hot—Sejanus Statue GOES TO POT.

1712. ARBUTHNOT, *Hist. of John Bull*, i. vi. John's ready money, book debts, bonds, mortgages, all went into the lawyers' pockets. Then John began to borrow money on *Bank Stock*, *East India Bonds*: and now and then a farm WENT TO POT.

1771. SMOLLETT, *Humphry Clinker*, 61. We went by sea to another kingdom, called Fife, and, coming back, had like to have GONE TO POT in a storm.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 31. Mother, since I'm to GO TO POT, And must be either hang'd or shot.

1840. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, 'Merchant of Venice.' "In the first place you know all the money I've got, Time and often, from now has been long GONE TO POT."

1889. *Cornhill Mag.*, July, 46. For the potato is really GOING TO POT . . . Constitutional disease and the Colorado beetle have preyed too long upon its delicate organism.

COLLOQUIALISMS are :—A POT (or PITCHER) OFT SENT TO THE WELL IS BROKEN AT LAST = the inevitable must happen: see PITCHER, *subs.* 1; TO AGREE LIKE POT AND KETTLE = to wrangle: see BLACK-ARSE; AS LIKE AS ONE POT'S LIKE ANOTHER = very like indeed; A LITTLE POT IS SOON HOT = (1) a little suffices, and (2) little people (or minds) are soon angered (B. E., c.1696); TO MAKE THE POT BOIL (or KEEP THE POT BOILING) = (1) to pro-

vide necessities, and (2) to keep things going: Fr. (artists') *faire du métier*: see POT-BOILER; TO MAKE A POT WITH TWO EARS = to set the arms akimbo; TO PUT ON THE POT = (1) see POT, *subs.*, (2) = to overcharge, (3) = to exaggerate, (4) = to bully, (5) = to snub, or patronise (also TO PUT ON THE BIG POT): see POT, *subs.* 4, and (6) = to provide the necessities of life; TO PUT ON THE POT = to banish, to extinguish; TO MAKE A POT AT = to grimace; TO MAKE POTS AND PANS = 'to spend freely, then beg' (BEE, 1823); TO GIVE MOONSHINE IN A MUSTARD-POT = to give nothing (RAY, 1670); 'IF YOU TOUCH POT, YOU MUST TOUCH PENNY' = 'You must pay for what you have.' Also see PISS, POT-AND-PAN, OLD POD, POT-SHOT, POT-HAT, HONEY-POT, &c.

1481. *Reynard the Foxe* [Percy Soc.]. A POT MAY GOO SO LONGE TO WATER THAT AT LAST IT COMETH TO-BROKEN HOOM.

1535. COVERDALE, *Bible*, Eccles. xiii. HOW AGREE THE KETELL AND THE POT TOGETHER.

1546. HEYWOOD, *Proverbs*, s.v. LITTLE POT, SOONE HOT.

1593. SHAKESPEARE, *Tam. of Shrew*, iv. 1, 5. Now, were I not a LITTLE POT AND SOON HOT.

1661. HEVLIN, *Hist. Reformation*, 312. So poor that it is hardly able to KEEP THE POT BOILING for a parson's dinner.

1678. COTTON, *Scarronides*, 236. See what a goodly port she bears, MAKING THE POT WITH THE TWO EARS.

1812. COOMBE, *Dr. Syntax*, i. xxiii. No favouring patrons have I got, But just enough to BOIL THE POT.

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxx. Mr. Pickwick . . . went slowly and gravely down the slide . . . "KEEP THE POT A BILIN', sir!" said Sam; and down went Wardle . . . Mr. Pickwick, and then Sam, . . . following closely upon each other's heels.

1885. *D. Telegraph*, 28 Dec. Below the composer's mark, and distinctly of the POT-BOILING order.

1887. *Lippincott's Mag.*, July, 160. Colonel Higginson, for example—advises a connection with a newspaper. Doubtless as a POT-BOILER that would be a good thing.

1888. *Globe*, 17 Oct. It is quite impossible for an author to produce a level series of books . . . First there is a good book, then a POT-BOILER, perhaps two POT-BOILERS, perhaps more, and then a return to the old form.

1892. *Sala's Journal*, 2 July, 239. Between the ages of eighteen and twenty-three I must have produced myself many scores of POT-BOILERS.

2. (provincial).—A house-keeper.

3. (scientific).—See quot.

1874. DAWKINS, *Cave Hunting*, iii. Among the articles of daily use were many rounded pebbles, with marks of fire upon them, which had probably been heated for the purpose of boiling water. POT-BOILERS, as they are called, of this kind are used by many savage peoples at the present day, and if we wished to heat water in a vessel that would not stand the fire, we should be obliged to employ a similar method.

POTCHING, *subs. phr.* (waiters?).—See quot. [*Century*: POTCH = an obsolete form of 'poach.']

1883. *Graphic*, 17 March, 283, 3. Good-natured customers may imagine that if they have given a fee to the waiter who presents the bill, they may hand another to the usual man who has attended upon them; but head-waiters are alive to the perils of this practice, which they call POTCHING (probably from poaching), and dismissal will be the punishment of the waiter who is caught taking vails on the sly.

POT-FAKER, *subs. phr.* (common).—A hawker; a CHEAP-JACK (*q.v.*): spec. one dealing in crockery.

POT-GUN, *subs. phr.* (old).—I. A toy gun: POP-GUN is a later form: see POP, *verb.*

1550. UDAL, *Reister Doister* (ARBER), 73. Bryng with thee my POTGUNNE hang-
yng by the wall.

1585. *Nomenclator*, s.v. *Sclopus*, &c. A POT-GUN made of an elderne sticke, or hollow quill, whereout boyes shoote chawen paper.

1610. HALL, *Married Clergy*, 148. They are but as the POTGUNS of boys.

d. 1637. JONSON [MOXON, *Works*, 719]. The rattling pit-pat noise Of the less poetic boys, When their POTGUNS aim to hit With their pellets of small wit.

1707. WARD, *Hudibras Redivivus*, i. xii. 16. Such dreadful POT-GUNS of Correction, That threaten'd nothing but Destruction.

1890. WHITING, *John St.* [1901], 80. Pigeons may be killed, of course, with a POT-GUN in a back-yard.

2. (old).—A reproach.

1623. WEBSTER, *Duch. of Malfi*, iii. 3. I saw a Dutchman break his pate once For calling him POT-GUN.

1693. CONGREVE, *Old Bachelor*, iii. 8. That sign of a man there—that POT-GUN charged with wind.

POT-HAT, *subs. phr.* (common).—See quot. 1891.

1869. BRADWOOD, *O. V. H.*, xi. Jemmy . . . securing a POT-HAT, pea-jacket, and double-thong as precaution, went to the servants' hall.

1889. *Sporting Times*, 3 Aug., 3, 1. A gentlemanly young fellow in a tweed suit and a POT HAT.

1891. *Notes and Queries*, 7 S. xii. 48. . . . The term POT-HAT . . . until lately I always thought was short for 'chimney-pot hat,' less reverently known as a 'tile'; but at the present time it is often applied to a felt hat.

1896. SALA, *London Up to Date*, 6a. I should respectfully advise him . . . not to be in the habit of perambulating Pall Mall in a suit of dittoes and a POT HAT.

POTHEEN, *subs.* (Irish).—Illicit whiskey. Also POTSHEEN.

c.1800. EDGEWORTH, *Absentee*, x. 'A glass of what?' 'POTSHEEN, please your honour; beca-ase it's the little whiskey that's made in the private still or *pot*; and *sheen* it's a fond word for whatsoever we'd like, and for what we have little of, and would make much of.

1836. M. SCOTT, *Tom Cringle's Log*, ii. Staggering and swaying about under the influence of the POTEEN.

POT-HOOKS, *subs. phr.* (military).—The Seventy-seventh Foot, now the 2nd Batt. Duke of Cambridge's Own (Middlesex Regiment). [From the resemblance of the two sevens in the old regimental number to POT-HOOKS.]

POT-HOOKS AND HANGERS, *subs. phr.* (colloquial).—1. The elementary characters formed by children when learning to write. Hence, a scrawl, or bad writing. —B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785). [Cf. FLESH-HOOKS (c.1321, *Rel. Antig.* i.) = notes of music.]

1690. DRYDEN, *Don Sebastian*, ii. 2. I long to be spelling her Arabick scrawls and POT-HOOKS.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 469. If ever . . . I such a pack of POT-HOOKS saw. What language does he write?

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, ii. v. Whose to understand it? Vy it's full of POTHOOKS AND HANGERS.

2. (old).—Shorthand.

POT-HOUSE (THE), *subs. phr.* (Cambridge).—St. Peter's College: formerly Peterhouse.

1891. *Harry Fludyer*, 85. I made a shot and said 'POTHOUSE.' He said, 'I suppose you mean St. Peter's College.'

See POT, *subs.* 1.

POTION. See BITTER PILL.

POT-HUNTER. See POT, *verb* 3, and POT-LUCK.

POTLE-BELL. TO RING THE POTLE-BELL, *verb. phr.* (Scots').—To confirm a bargain by linking the little fingers of the right hand.

POT-LUCK, *subs. phr.* (old colloquial).—Whatever is going in the way of food and drink; an impromptu invitation; whence, a hearty welcome: TO TAKE POT-LUCK = to take the hazard of a meal. Hence POT-HUNTER = a self-invited guest.

1593. NASHE, *Strange Newes* [GROSART, *Works*, ii. 242]. This . . . greedy POTHUNTER after applause, is an apparent Publican and sinner; a self-loue surfetted 401. *Ibid.* (1600), *Summers Last Will* [GROSART, *Works*, vi. 131]. We had but even POT-LUCK, a little to moysten our lips, and no more.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 71. He then offered us his crusts, and asked with a smile if we would TAKE POTLUCK with him.

1772. GRAVES, *Spiritual Quixote*, xix. xii. He should be very welcome to TAKE POT-LUCK with him.

1814. *Saxon and Gael*, i. 55. If you . . . and my Leddy Mary, wad come in a canny way, and tak FAT-LUCK wi' Jean and me . . . I gie nae dinner ae day but what I can gie ilka day in the year.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends* (1862), 248. Quoth the Lady, 'Dear Sir, no apologies, pray, You will TAKE our POT-LUCK in the family way.'

1857. THACKERAY, *Virginians*, lxxvi. "What! come to TAKE POT-LUCK with us, Brown my boy? Betsy! put a knife and fork for Mr. Brown. Eat! Welcome! Fall to! It's my best!"

1858. G. ELIOT, *Amos Barton*, i. He never contradicted Mrs. Hackit, a woman whose POT-LUCK was always to be relied on.

1870. *Chambers's Miscellany*, No. 87, 6. "I'm going home to dinner, and you must TAKE POT-LUCK with us."

1891. *Harry Fludyer at Cambridge* . . . 38. I decided to accept a very kind invitation from Blofield to TAKE POT-LUCK with him and Mrs. Blofield yesterday in Grosvenor Gardens.

1898. *Sat. Rev.*, 19 Nov., 657, 1. Whilst rival nations have been taking 'POT-LUCK' and helping themselves freely to whatever happened to be going.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, xxv. He leaves the meeting, and accepts an invitation to POT-LUCK for the remainder of the revel from one of the Bacchanalian floors.

POT-OF-WINE, *subs. phr.* (old).—A bribe. *Fr. pot-de-vin.*

POT-SHOT. *See* POT, *subs.* and *verb.* 1.

POTTAGE. *See* BREATH and PISS; besides which there are proverbial sayings:—'With cost one may make POTTAGE of a joint-stool'; 'Scald not your lips in another man's POTTAGE'; 'Like a chip in a POTTAGE-pot, neither good nor harm.'

POTTED-FUG, *subs. phr.* (Rugby).—Potted meat.

POTTER, *verb.* (colloquial).—1. To walk aimlessly and listlessly; (2) to make a pretence of work; and (3) to dawdle: usually with *about*. Hence as *subs.* = a saunter, a slow pace: also POTTERER.

1854. MARTIN and AYTOUN, *Bon Gualtier Ballads*, 'The Lay of the Lover's Friend.' He waxes strong upon his pangs, And POTTERS o'er his grog.

1857. T. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's Schooldays*, 1. 2. Past the old church and down the footpath, POTTERED the old man and the child, hand-in-hand.

1859. GEORGE ELIOT, *Adam Bede*, xvii. His servants stayed with him till they were so old and POTTERING he had to hire other folk to do their work.

1868. COLLINS, *Moonstone*, 1. xxiii. I . . . was POTTERING ABOUT the grounds, when I heard my name called.

1870. *Bell's Life*, 29 July. It was a day of POTTERING ABOUT—no run worthy of the name, and no kill.

1878-80. MCCARTHY, *Hist. Own Times*, xvii. Lord John Russell's Government POTTERED with the difficulty rather than encountered it.

1884. H. JAMES, JR., *Little Tour*, 252. I . . . POTTERED ABOUT Beaune rather rather vaguely for the rest of my hour.

1886. *Field*, 27 Feb. The run . . . degenerated into a POTTER.

1898. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, v. You haven't got to do with the old-fashioned mounted police as was POTTERING ABOUT.

POTTERY, *subs.* (common).—Poetry.

POT-WALLOPER (-WABBLER, -WALLONER, or -WALLER), *subs. phr.* (political: was obsolete).—1. *See* quotes. [The qualification was abolished by the Reform Bill of 1832.] Hence POT-WALLOPING, and also *subs.* and *adj.*—GROSE (1785).

1724-7. DE FOE, *Tour thro' Great Britain*, II. 18. The election of members here [Taunton] is by those whom they call POT-WALLONERS—that is to say, every inhabitant, whether housekeeper or lodger, who dresses his own victuals; to make out which, several inmates or lodgers will, some little time before the election, bring out their pots, and make fires in the street, and boil victuals in the sight of their neighbours, that their votes may not be called in question.

1787. GROSE, *Prov. Glossary*, s.v. "Walling." *Walling*, i.e., boiling . . . Perhaps the same as *wallopping*; whence in some boroughs, persons who boil a pot there are called POT-WALLOPPERS, and entitled to vote for representatives in Parliament.

1807. SOUTHEY, *Letters*, iv. 39. A POT-WALLOPING borough like Taunton.

1857. TROLLOPE, *Three Clerks*, xxix. "I am once more a constituent part of the legislative wisdom of the United Kingdom, thanks to the patriotic discretion of the POT-WALLOPPERS, burgh-tenants, and ten-pound freeholders of these loyal towns."

2. (common).—A scullion; a kitchen-maid; and (nautical) a cook, esp. on board a whaler: also POT-WRESTLER.

3. (common). — A tap-room loafer; a spouter: esp. (theatrical) a PROSSER (*q.v.*).

POUCH (or POUCH UP), verb. (colloquial). — 1. To pocket.

1567. EDWARDS, *Damon and Pythias* [DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (1874), iv. 40]. [OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 565. In p. 40 stands to POUCH UP money (for his own use); in our time a liberal friend POUCHES schoolboys.]

1635. QUARLES, *Emblems*, i. 9. Come, bring your saint POUCH'D in his leathern shrine.

1821. SCOTT, *Pirate*, vi. And for the value of the gowden piece, it shall never be said I POUCH'D her siller.

1881. *Sci. Amer.*, 55. They [the letters] have next to be POUCH'D.

1886-96. MARSHALL, 'Pomes' from *the Pink 'Un* ('Parkey'), 90. He POUCH'D the change.

1889. *Licensed Victuallers' Gas.*, 4 Jan. Two hundred solid quids he POUCH'D, And then he slid.

2. (common). — To eat.

1892. MILLIKEN, 'Arny Ballads, 49. Fancy POUCHING your prog on a terrace.

3. (common). — To tip; to provide with money.

1844. DISRAELI, *Coningsby*, i. 11. He had been loaded with kindness, . . . and, finally, had been POUCH'D in a manner worthy of a Marquess and of a grandfather.

1864. *Eton School Days*, i. 4. "Did your governor POUCH you," asked Purefoy, as they were going towards the Station. "Yes," replied Butler Burke, "and so did the mater."

POUCHET, subs. (old). — A pocket.

1682. RADCLIFFE, *Rambler, &c.*, 44. 'Upon a Bowl of Punch.' Did out of his POUCHET three nutmegs produce.

POUCH-MOUTH, subs. phr. (old). — A ranter. Also as *adj.* = ranting.

1600. DEKKER, *Satiro-Mastix* [HAWKINS, *Eng. Dr.*, iii. 172]. Players, I mean, theaterians, POUCH-MOUTH stage-walkers.

POUDERING- (or POWDERING-) TUB, subs. phr. (old). — The salivating cradle or pit formerly used in cases of *lues venerea*; the pickling tub. — GROSE (1785), and HALLIWELL (1847). Also 'The Pocky Hospital at Kingsland, near London.' — B. E. (c. 1696).

1599. SHAKESPEARE, *Henry V.*, ii. 1. "From the POWD'RING-TUB of infamy Fetch forth the lazar kite Doll Tearsheet."

1611. CHAPMAN, *May-day*, ii. 5. How mean you that? d'ye think I came lately ath' POWDERING TUB.

c. 1697. T. BROWN, *Comical View* [Works (1715), i. 182]. As fair as a sinner newly Come out of the POWDERING TUB.

POUF, subs. (theatrical). — A would-be actor.

POULAIN, subs. (venery). — A bubo; a WINCHESTER-GOOSE (*q.v.*). — GROSE (1785). Fr. *poulain*.

POULDERLING, subs. (obs. University). — See quot.

1607. *Christmas Prince* (1816), 1. The whole companye, or most parte of the students of the same house mette toogether to beginne their Christmas, of wch some came to see sports, to witte the seniors as well graduates as vnder-graduates. Others to make sports, viz., studentes of the seconde year, whom they call POULDER-LINGS.

POULTERER, subs. (old). — A thief who stole and gutted letters. — GROSE (1785); MATSELL (1859).

POULTICE WALLAH, subs. phr. (military). — A surgeon's assistant.

POULTICE-WALLOPPERS, subs. phr. (military). — The Royal Army Medical Corps. Also "The Licensed (or Linseed) Lancers"; "The Pills."

POULTRY, subs. (old). — Women-kind: generic: cf. HEN, PLOVER, PHEASANT, PARTRIDGE, &c. CELESTIAL POULTRY = angels.

1611. CHAPMAN, *May-Day*, i. 2. If I do not bring . . . at least some special favour from her . . . then never trust my skill in POULTRY whilst thou livest again.

POUNCE, *verb.* (American).—To thrash: *see* TAN.

1847. PORTER, *Big Bear*, &c., 146. He did then and there . . . most wantonly POUNCED his old wife.

POUNCEY. *See* PONCE.

POUND, *subs.* (old).—A prison: *see* CAGE and LOB'S POUND. Hence POUNDED = imprisoned.—GROSE (1785).

Verb. (colloquial).—To HAMMER (*q.v.*): *see* TAN.—GROSE (1785). Whence POUNDING-MATCH = a fight. Also PUN.

1596. SPENSER, *Fairy Queen*, iv. iv. 31. A hundred knights had him enclosed round, . . . All which at once huge strokes on him did POUND, in hope to take him prisoner.

1598. FLORIO, *World of Wordes*, 6. To stampe or PUNNE in a mortar.

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Troilus*, ii. 1. He would PUN thee into shivers with his fist, as a sailor breaks a biscuit.

1859. WHITEY, *Political Portraits*, 206. The Crimean War was at best a POUNDING-MATCH; the result proved nothing but that Russia, single-handed, could not hope to keep its ground against united France and England.

1888. *Sportsman*, 28 Nov. To see the men POUND each other.

2. (colloquial).—To move forward, steadily and with more or less noise: generally with 'along,' or 'up and down.'

1884. *Century Mag.*, xxxvii. 900. He's POUNDED up and down across this Territory for the last five years.

1885. *Daily Telegraph*, 3 Oct. POUNDING ALONG a dusty high road.

1894. *Yellow Book*, i. 196. We can't escape her . . . she POUNDS ALONG untiringly.

3. (hunting).—To get caught, or left in a field with no easy means of egress save a fence your horse won't take: stuck as in a pound.

1884. *Saturday Review*, 5 Jan. He jumps a little and I see him POUNDED every day.

1885. *Daily Telegraph*, 27 Oct. Any fence which would be likely to POUND or give a fall to his rival.

4. (old).—*See* quot.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, ii. ii. This feature is what the *bon vivants* term being POUNDED; i.e., being caught "astray" from propriety.

5. (American).—To copulate: *see* GREENS and RIDE.

To POUND IT, *verb. phr.* (old).—1. *See* quot. 1819. Hence POUNDABLE = certain, inevitable; and (2) to wager in pounds (BEE, 1823).

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, a.v. POUND IT. To ensure or make a certainty of any thing; thus, a man will say, I'll POUND IT to be so; taken, probably, from the custom of laying, or rather offering ten pounds to a crown at a cock-match, in which case if no person takes this extravagant odds, the battle is at an end. This is termed POUNDING A COCK.

1828. BEE, *Living Picture of London*, 44. You'll soon be bowled out, I'll POUND IT.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, xxxix. I'll POUND IT that you han't.

To GO ONE'S POUND, *verb. phr.* (military).—To eat a thing out. [The weight of a soldier's ration of bread and meat is 1 lb.]

IN FOR POUND, *adv. phr.* (thieves').—Committed for trial.

SHUT IN THE PARSON'S POUND, *phr.* (old).—Married; SPLICED (*q.v.*).—GROSE (1785).

POUNDERS, *subs.* (old).—The *testes*:
see CODS.

1693. DRYDEN, *Juvenal*, vi. (3rd ed.),
114. Their solid joy, Is when the Page,
already past a boy, Is caponed late, and to
the guelder shown, With his two POUNDERS
to perfection grown.

POUNDREL, *subs.* (old).—1. The
head.

1734. COTTON, *Works*, 14. So nimble
flew away these scoundrels, Glad they had
'scap'd, and sav'd their POUNDRELS.

POUND-TEXT, *subs. phr.* (common).
—A parson: see SKY-PILOT.

POUPE (or **POOP**), *subs.* (vulgar).—
A noisy vent; a FART (*q.v.*):
also as *verb.*

POUT, *subs.* (Scots').—A sweet-
heart. [O. E. *pult* = a yong
henne, *Prompt. Parv.*]

1768. ROSS, *Helenore*, 93. The
Squire—returning mist his POUT, . . . And
for her was just like to burn the town.

POUTER, *subs.* (venery).—The fe-
male *puendum*: see MONO-
SYLLABLE, and *cf.* DIDDLY-
POUT.

POVERTY-BASKET, *subs. phr.* (old).
—A wicker cradle.—BEE (1823).

POVERTY-JUNCTION (or -CORNER),
subs. phr. (variety artists').—The
corner of the York and Waterloo
Roads, London. See quot. In
New York that portion of 14th
Street, opposite the Washington
Statue, is known as 'The Slave
Market' for similar reasons.

1890. *Tit-Bits*, 29 Mar., 390, 3. Any
Monday, between eleven and three, may
be seen a hundred or more persons of both
sexes outside [the York Hotel] waiting in
the hope of obtaining engagements in
music-halls or variety theatres—"lion
comiques," "serio-comics," "character
comedians," in fact, every variety of music-
hall artiste. Anyone wishing to see faces
beaming with joy and prosperity [or] worn
pale and thin by privation, care, and

anxiety, will not find any better oppor-
tunity than by paying a visit on a Mon-
day morning to POVERTY JUNCTION.—
[*Abridged.*]

POWDER, *subs.* (old: now pugi-
lists').—Strength; vigour; inspi-
ration; BEANS (*q.v.*); DEVIL
(*q.v.*): hence, as *verb.* = to be
all over an adversary; TO POW-
DER ONE'S JACKET = to swinge
'like hell.'

1664. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1st
ed.), 19. The Windes grew louder still
and louder, And play'd their gambals with
a POWDER.

d.1704. SIR R. L'ESTRANGE [Century].
Whilst two companions were disputing it
at sword's point, down comes a kite
POWDERING vpon them, and gobbets up
both.

d.1870. DICKENS [Century]. He had
done wonders before, but now he began
to POWDER away like a raving giant.

1889. *Licensed Victualler's Gaz.*, 18
Jan. Peg into him, Snacks—put more
POWDER in 'em.

POWDER AND SHOT, *subs. phr.*
(colloquial).—Cost; effort;
labour. NOT WORTH POWDER
OR SHOT = not worth trouble or
cost.

POWDER-MONKEY, *subs. phr.* (for-
merly naval).—A boy employed
to carry gunpowder from maga-
zine to gun. Fr. *moussailon*.—
B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

1682. RADCLIFFE, *Rambler*, &c.,
68. 'Call to the Guard.' To be near him
the next takes care not to fill, POWDER-
MONKEY by name.

d.1704. T. BROWN, *Works* (1760), ii.
212. Lucifer . . . would not . . . have
listed them; they would not have been fit
for so much as POWDER-MONKEYS.

1787. SIR J. HAWKINS, *Johnson*, 195.
One poet feigns that the town is a sea, the
playhouse a ship, the manager the captain,
the players sailors, and the orange-girls
POWDER-MONKEYS.

1815. SCOTT, *Guy Mannering*, lii.
Ellangowan had him placed as cabin-boy
or POWDER-MONKEY on board an armed
sloop.

1870. *Chambers's Misc.*, No. 77, 4. The boy is employed in handing the cartridges, for which he is honoured with the name of POWDER-MONKEY.

POWER, *subs.* (old : now colloquial).

—A large number or quantity : also **POWERATION**. Whence **POWERFUL**, *adj.* and *adv.* = extremely ; also (quot. 1847) eloquent.

[?]. *MS. Cotton*, *Vespas. A*, xxv. Then came into Ingland kynge Jamys of Skotland, with a **POUAR** of men, after Alhalow tide.

1675. WYCHERLEY, *Country Wife*, iii. 2. Lord, what a **POWER** of brave signs are here.

1740. RICHARDSON, *Pamela*, ii. 389. I am providing a **POWER** of pretty things for her.

1751. SMOLLETT, *Peregrine Pickle*, ii. "He has a **POWER** of money, and spends it like a prince."

1777. SHERIDAN, *Trip to Scarborough*, iv. 1. These lords have a **POWER** of wealth indeed.

1847. DARLEY, *Drama in Poterville*, 94. Mr. Gwie, a 'POWERFUL man,' was expected to make a 'great effort.'

1848. BURTON, *Waggeries*, 23. He felt it tickle **POWERFUL** from the top of his head to the end of his starn-fin.

1851. HOOPER, *Dick McCoy's Sketches*, 36. "Is he lazy much?" 'POWERFUL.'

d. 1869. CARLTON, *New Purchase*, ii. 8. This piano was sort o' fiddle like,—and with a **POWERFUL** heap of wire strings. *Ibid.*, 74. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I'd a **POWERFUL** sight sooner go into retiracy among the red, wild aborigines of our wooden country, nor consent to that bill.

1872. *Chambers's Miscellany*, No. 152, 3. 'Was there a good fair to-day?' 'There was, ma'am, a **POWER** and all of people in it.'

1876. CLEMENS, *Tom Sawyer*, 34. You can work when you're a mind, Tom . . . But it's **POWERFUL** seldom you're a mind to, I'm bound to say.

1892. *Tit-Bits*, 17 Sep., 419, 2. He's **POWERFUL** bad, miss.

POWOS (THE), *subs.* (military).—The Prince of Wales's Own (West Yorkshire Regiment), formerly The 14th Foot. Also "The Old and Bold"; "Calvert's Entire."

POW-WOW, *subs. phr.* (American).

—Noise : hence (political) = a noisy meeting, and as *verb.* = to take part in such : also to frolic. [From N.A. Indian **POW-WOW** = a council.]

1825. NEAL, *Bro. Jonathan*, iii. 37. Off she goes ; and if all they say's true, turned witch herself, an' cussed poor Bet with sich a **POW-WOW**. *Ibid.* (1833). *Down Easters*, vii. 105. Glancing at the ladies' cabin, where a tremendous **POW WOW** had just broken out. Such a screaming of mothers ! and such a squalling of babies !

1885. *New York Herald*, 22 June. The Know-Nothings were holding their grand national **POW-WOW** . . . and laying it on thick that "Americans shall rule America."

POX, *subs.* (old).—Syphilis : sometimes qualified as **FRENCH-**(**ITALIAN-**, **GERMAN-**, or **INDIAN-**) **POX**, for which, and other synonyms see **FRENCH-GOUT** and **LADIES'-FEVER**. Whence, *verb.* = to syphilize ; and **POCKY**, or **POCKIFIED** (*adj.*) = syphilized. Used vulgarly and popularly as a petty oath or common malison (e.g., **POX ! POX ON'T ! POX TAKE YOU ! WHAT A POX ! WITH A POX !** &c. : see the Elizabethan drama *passim*). Hence **POKTER** = a syphilist ; **POXOPHILIT** = an opponent of the Contagious Diseases Acts ; **POXOLOGY** = the study of **SIPH.** (*q.v.*) ; and **POXOLOGIST** = a **POX**-doctor, a **SIPHOPHIL** (*q.v.*). — B. E. (*c.* 1696) ; GROSE (1785). [Originally and occasionally as in quotes. 1594 and 1631, the small-pox ; but for some three centuries specialized as above.] See **HORSE-POX**.

1522-3. SKELTON, *Why Come ye not to Court*, 1167. Men wene that he [Wolsey] is POCKY, Or els his surgions they lye. *Ibid.*, Balthasor, they helyd Domingo . . . From the puskyld POCKY nose . . . Hath promised to hele our cardinals eye : Yet sum surgions put a dout, Lest he will put it clene out, And make him lame of his neder limmes.

1528. ROY, *Rode me, &c.* [*Harl. Mss.* [PARK], ix. 32]. He [Wolsey] had the POCKES, without fayle, Wherefore people on hym did rayle.

1584. [MONDAY!], *Weakest to Wall*, l. 2. These Frenchmen's feet have a POCKY strong scent.

1588. LVLV, *Endimion*, iv. 1. A POXE of all false proverbs.

1594. SHAKESPEARE, *Love's Lab. Lost*, v. 2. Ros. O that your face were not so full of O's ! Kath. A pox of that jest ! *Ibid.* (1598), 2 *Hen. IV.*, i. 2. A man can no more separate age and covetousness than a' can part young limbs and lechery : but the gout galls the one, and the pox pinches the other. . . . A pox of this gout ! or, a gout of this pox ! for the one or the other plays the rogue with my great toe. *Ibid.* (1609) *Pericles*, iv. 6. *Pand.* Now a pox on her green sickness for me. *Bawd.* Faith there's no way to be rid on't, but by the way to the POX.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*, s.v. *Varolans*, to infect, or to be infected with the POXE. *Ibid.*, *Varole*, the GREAT or FRENCH POXE. *Ibid.*, *Varoloso*, POCKIE, full of the POXE, botches, or blanes.

1599. T. HALL, *Virgid.*, iii. i. When ech brasse-basen can professe the trade Of curing POCKIE wenches from their paine.

1599. JONSON, *Ed. Man Out of His Humour*, iv. 4. *Carlo.* Let a man sweat once a week in a hot-house and be well rubbed and froted, with a good plump juicy wench, and sweet linen, he shall ne'er have the POX. *Pant.* What, the FRENCH POX ? *Car.* The FRENCH POX ! our POX : we have them in as good a form as they. What ? *Ibid.* (1613), *Epigrams*, xii. But see ! the old bawd hath served him in trim, Lent him a POCKY whore—She hath paid him. *Ibid.*, *Underwoods*, lxii. Pox on thee, Vulcan ! thy Pandora's POX, And all the ills that flew out of her box Light on thee ! or if those plagues will not do, Thy wife's POX on thee, and Bess Broughton's too.

1605. CHAPMAN, *All Fools*, iii. 1. *Da.* I know a doctor of your name, master POCK. *Po.* My name has made many doctors. sir.

1613. WEBSTER, *Devil's Law Case*, ii. 1. *Ari.* Incontinence is plagued in all the creatures of the world ! *Jul.* When did you ever hear that a cock-sparrow Had the FRENCH POX. *Ibid.*, iii. 3. The scurvy, or the INDIAN POX, I hope, Will take order for their coming back.

1619. FLETCHER, *Humorous Lieut.*, i. 2. *Celia.* POX on these bawling drums ! I'm sure you'll kiss me.

1631. MASSINGER, *Emp. of East*, iv. 4. *Swrg.* An excellent receipt ! . . . 'tis good for . . . the gonorrhoea, or, if you will hear it in a plainer phrase, the pox.

d.1631. DONNE, *Letters* [NARES]. At my return from Kent, I found Peggy had the POXE—I humbly thank God it has not much disfigured her.

1653. URQUHART, *Rabelais*, i. xlv. Let me be peppered with the pox if you find not all your wives with child at your return . . . for the very shadow . . . of an abbey is fruitful.

1662. *Rump Songs*, l. 28. Pox take dem all, it is (Mort-Dieu) Not à la mode de France.

1668. ETHERIDGE, *She Would, &c.*, i. 1. *Sir Olto.* Well, a pox of this tying men and women together, for better or worse. *Ibid.*, iii. 2. *Sir John.* A POX UPON these qualms.

1675. WYCHERLEY, *Country Wife*, i. 1. A POX ON'T ! the jades would jilt me. *Ibid.* ii. 1. *Mrs. Pinch.* He says he won't let me go abroad for fear of catching the pox. *Alitha.* Fy ! The small pox, you should say.

d.1680. ROCHESTER, *Works*, 62. But punk-rid Ratcliffe's not a greater cully, Nor taudry Isham, intimately known To all POX'D whores.

d.1680. BUTLER, *Dildoides*. By dildo Monsieur sure intends For his FRENCH POX to make amends.

1680. DORSET, *Poems*, 'On the Countess of Dorchester.' Can'st thou forget thy age and pox ? *Ibid.* (1686), *Faithful Catalogue*. With Face and Cunt all martyred with the pox. *Ibid.* Thou wondrous POCKY art, and wondrous poor.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *London Lab.*, iii. 143. Veal's was the best circus I was at; there they had six PRADS and two ponies.

1854. AINSWORTH, *James the Second*, l. ii. It may be, young squire, you'll have to go forth afoot, instead of on your PRAD.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippo*, xvi. We moved to some new stables, where there was stalls for eight PRADS, four each side, besides a loose box.

1895. MARRIOTT-WATSON, *New Review*, July, 9. Crech . . . swerved out of line and ran his mare full face upon the struggling PRADS.

PRAIRIE. ON THE PRAIRIE, *phr.* (Western American).—See quot.

1848. RUXTON, *Far West*, 127. Presented to them ON THE PRAIRIE, or "gift-free."

PRAIRIE-DEW, *subs. phr.* (American).—Whiskey: cf. MOUNTAIN-DEW (Scots').

1848. DURIVAGE, *Stray Subjects*, 81. Jest fetch on your PRARY DEW for the hull lot, and d—the expense.

PRAIRIE-OYSTER (OR -COCKTAIL), *subs. phr.* (American).—A raw yolk dropped into spirits, flavoured with Worcester or cayenne, and gulped.

1898. *Sporting Times*, 19 Feb., i. 5. "Take anything?" "Yes, I'll have a PRAIRIE OYSTER." "Hedge! hedge!" cried the young 'un, "I don't mean *lunch* . . . have a *drink*!"

PRAIRIE-SCHOONER, *subs. phr.* (American).—An emigrant wagon.

1887. STEVENS, *Around the World* [S. J. & C.]. Meeting PRAIRIE-SCHOONERS will now be a daily incident of my Eastward journey.

1888. *Daily Inter-Ocean*, 14 April. The old PRAIRIE-SCHOONER . . . is now mainly a thing of the past.

PRAIRIE STATE, *verb. phr.* (American).—Illinois.

PRAM, *subs.* (vulgar).—A perambulator.

1891. *Notes & Queries*, 7 S. xi. 104. May we not hope that the odious and meaningless vulgarism of PRAM, for perambulator, will be exploded from popular use.

PRANCER, *subs.* (Old Cant).—1. A horse: see PRAD; and (2) a horse-thief. Hence PRANCER'S-NAB = a horse's head: as a seal to a counterfeit pass; THE SIGN OF THE PRANCER = The Nag's Head.—ROWLANDS (1610); B.E. (c.1696); HALL (1714); GROSE (1785).

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat* (1869), 85. A BENE MORT hereby at THE SIGN OF THE PRAUNCER.

1591. GREENE, *Second Part Conny-catching* [GROSART, *Works*, x. 76]. They . . . take an especiall and perfect view where PRANCERS or horses be.

1622. FLETCHER, *Beggar's Bush*, v. 2. Higgen bath prigged the PRANCERS in his day.

1712. *The Twenty Craftsmen* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 37]. The fifteenth a PRANCER, whose courage is small, If they catch him horse-courting, he's nooz'd once for all.

1749. *Oath of Canting Crew* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 51]. Prig of cackler, prig of PRANCER.

1834. AINSWORTH, 'The Game of High Toby' [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 115]. His matchless cherry-black PRANCER riding.

1843. DICKENS, *Martin Chuzzlewit*, xix. 203. My four long-tailed PRANCERS, never harnessed under ten pound ten!

1852. JUDSON, *Mysteries of New York*, iv. I prigged two PRANCERS and sold 'em.

3. (old).—A dancer: also as *verb.* = to dance. Also PRANKER.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, iil. ii. If she be a noted reveller, a gadder, a singer, a PRANKER or dancer, then take heed of her.

4. (military).—A cavalry officer.

me into these perils. *Ibid.* (1602), *Othello*, i. 1, 26. Mere PRATTLE without practice Is all his soldieryship. *Ibid.* (1606) *Macbeth*, iv. 2, 64. POOR PRATTLE, how thou talk'st.

1626. BRETON, *Mother's Blessing*, lxxiv. A PRATTLE-BASKET or an idle slut.

1636. HEYWOOD, *Love's Mistress*, 26. Prince of passions, PRATE-APACES, and pickl'd lovers . . . admiral of ay-mes! and monsieur of mutton lac'd. *Ibid.* (1637), *Royall King*, Sig. B. You PRITTLE AND PRATTLE nothing but leasings and untruths.

1638. FORD, *Lady's Trial*, i. 2. Now we PRATTLE of handsome gentlemen.

1650. BRAMHALL, *Church of England Defended*, 46. It is plain PRITTLE-PRATTLE.

1673. WYCHERLEY, *Gentleman Dancing Master*, ii. 2. Y'fackins but you shant ask him! if you go there too, look you, you PRATTLE-BOX you I'll ask him.

1693. CONGREVE, *Old Bachelor*, iv. 9. Nay, now I'm in, I can PRATTLE like a magpie.

1697. VANBRUGH, *Provoked Wife*, ii. 1. By your ladyship's leave we must have one moment's PRATTLE together.

1720. DURFEE, *Pills to Purge*, vi. 11. Her PRITTLE-PRATTLE, little tattlet.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus* (1900), i. 78. Don't be a PRITTLE PRATTLE, nor PRATE APACE, nor be a minding anything but what is said to you.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 261. These two noblemen . . . were listening with admiration to his PRATTLE.

1757. [PALTOCK], *Peter Wilkins*, i. ii. The old PRATTLE-BOX made a short pause to recover breath.

1783. COWPER, *Task*, ii. 382. Frequent in park with lady at his side, Ambling and PRATTING scandal as he goes.

1821. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry* [DICK], 5. *Jerry*. Chaffing crib! I'm at fault, coz, can't follow. *Tom*. My PRATTING PARLOUR—my head quarters, coz, where I unbend with my pals.

1836. *The Thieves' Chant* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 121.] She's wide-awake, and her PRATING CHEAT, For humming a cove was never beat.

PRAYER, subs.—Common colloquial expressions are: TO SAY PRAYERS = to stumble: of horses: cf. DEVOTIONAL HABITS; TO SAY PRAYERS BACKWARDS = to blaspheme (RAY); TO PRAY WITH KNEES UPWARDS (GROSE) = to copulate: of women; AT HER LAST PRAYERS = of an old maid (RAY); PRAYER-BONES = the knees.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 42. All the Ship's Company daily pray for him, but they PRAY as they row, BACKWARDS.

1725. BAILEY, *Erasmus* (1900), i. 73. *Ra*. Sirrah! did I not hear you mutter? *Sy*. I was SAYING my Prayers. *Ra*. Ay, I believe so, but it was THE LORD'S-PRAYER BACKWARDS then.

PRAYER-BOOK, subs. phr. (gaming). —I. A pack of cards.

2. (nautical).—A small holy-stone; a BIBLE (*q.v.*).—CLARK RUSSELL (1883).

1840. DANA, *Before the Mast*, xxiii. Smaller hand-stones, which the sailors call PRAYER-BOOKS, are used to scrub in among the crevices and narrow places, where the arge holystone will not go.

See POST-OFFICE PRAYER-BOOK.

PRAYER-BOOK PARADE, subs. phr. (common).—A promenade in fashionable places of resort, after morning service on Sundays.

PRAYER-POWDER, subs. phr. (American).—See quot.

1825. NEAL, *Bro. Jonathan*, ii. xiv. With a silver bullet—a leaf o' the Bible for wadding—and a charge of PRAYER-POWDER—powder, over every 365 grains of which the Lord's prayer has been said.

PRAY-PRAY FASHION, adv. phr. (old).—Imploringly.

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, ii. 183. 'Pray, sir, forgive me:' and she held up her hands PRAY-PRAY fashion thus.

1881. BLACK, *Beautiful Wretch*, xix. 'She might as well try to leave off her affectations as her clothes. She couldn't go about without any.' 'She goes about with PRECIOUS little,' said Mr. Tom.

PRECISIAN, *subs.* (old : now recognised).—A stickler : spec. (17th century) = a PURITAN (*q.v.*) in depreciation : also as *adj.* = punctilious, rigidly exact.—B. E. (c.1696).

1596. JONSON, *Ev. Man in his Humour*, iii. 2. He's no PRECISIAN, that I'm certain of.

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*, i. 2. We have the finest schoolmaster, a kind of PRECISIAN, and yet an honest knave too.

1615. HARRINGTON, *Epigrams*, i. 20. The man, affrighted at this apparition, Upon recovery grew a great PRECISIAN.

1612. DRAVTON, *Polyolbion*, vi. 301. These men . . . like our PRECISIANS be, Who for some Cross or Saint they in the window see Will pluck down all the Church.

1614. *Time's Whistle* [E. E. T. S.], 10. Hypocritical PRECISIANS, By vulgar phrase entitled Puritance.

1619. FLETCHER, *Custom of the Country*, iv. 1. He was of Italy, and that country breeds not PRECISIANS that way, but hot libertines.

1625. MASSINGER, *New Way*, i. 1. Verity, you brach, The devil turn'd PRECISIAN.

1628. EARLE, *Micro-cosmog*, 2. His fashion and demure Habit gets him in with some Town-PRECISIAN, and makes him a Guest on Fryday nights.

d.1655. REV. T. ADAMS, *Works*, ii. 465. If a man be a Herod within and a John without, a wicked politician in a ruff of PRECISIAN set, God can distinguish him.

1694. GILDON, *Mis. Let. and Essays*, Pref. I hope too the graver gentlemen, the PRECISIANS will not be scandaliz'd at my zeal for the promotion of poetry.

1821. SCOTT, *Kenilworth*, ii. Tony darted a pure PRECISIAN . . . as bitter a PRECISIAN as ever eat flesh in Lent, and a cat-and-dog life she led.

1822. BYRON, *Vision of Judgment*, cv. As Wellborn says—'the devil turn'd PRECISIAN.'

1864. ALFORD, *Queen's English*, 78. This pronunciation in the mouth of an affected PRECISIAN is offensive.

1888. STEVENSON, *Inland Voyage*, Epilogue. He is no PRECISIAN in attire.

PREEZE, *verb.* (provincial).—To urinate ; TO PISS (*q.v.*).

PREMISES, *subs.* (venery).—The female *puendum* ; cf. LODGER and LODGINGS TO LET : see MONOSYLLABLE.

PRESBYTERESS, *subs.* (old colloquial).—See quot.

d.1563. BALE, *English Votaries*, i. Marianus sayth she was a PRESBYTERESSE, or a priestes leman.

PRESBYTERIAN, *adj.* (old).—An epithet of ridicule or contempt.

16[?]. *Broadside Ballad* [Title]. A PRESBYTERIAN TRICK.

1706. WARD, *Hudibras Redivivus*, v. 26. But, Lord, I pray thee, by the bye, Look down and cast a jealous Eye Upon our cunning Elder Brethren, Call'd by the name of PRESBYTERIAN.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 117. For the right PRESBYTERIAN breed Always coin pray'ts in time of need.

1847. HALLIWELL, *Archaic Words and Phrases*, s.v. PRESBYTERIAN-TRICK. A dishonest bargain ; a knavish trick.

PRESCOTT, *subs.* (rhyming).—A waistcoat : also CHARLEY PRESCOTT :

PRESENT, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A white spot on the finger nail : supposed to augur good fortune.

2. (common).—A baby.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 13. Three months after marriage . . . as . . . I had no particular wish for the PRESENT my wife was likely to make me, I joined issue with some desperate blades.

1802. ANSTEV. *Voces Populi*, 'At the Military Tournament,' 97. Cost a PRETTY SIGHT o' the People's MONEY.

1899. WHITEING, *John St.*, ix. PRETTY child you must ha' been . . . Oh my! *Ibid.* Was you knocked about much when you was a young 'un? PRETTY tidy, only I alwiz stepped it when it got too 'ot.

TO DO THE (OR TALK) PRETTY, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—To affect amiability or obsequiousness.

1891. J. NEWMAN, *Scampering Tricks*, 2. We can talk PRETTY to each other. *Ibid.*, 46. I saw they were started on the road of mutual admiration, and travelling PRETTY, and that he meant calling again.

1902. *Free Lance*, 5 April, 8, 2. They must be spoken PRETTY to, caressed, humoured, coaxed.

See also WAY and HORSE-BREAKER.

PRETTY- (OR MERRY-) DANCERS, *subs. phr.* (Scots').—The Aurora Borealis.

PRETTY-PRETTY, *subs.* (common).—
1. A knick-knack; and (2) see PRETTY.

1887-9. TROLLOPE, *What I Remember*, 21. My mother . . . had contrived to keep a certain number of PRETTY-PRETTIES which were dear to her heart.

PREVIOUS, *adv.* (colloquial).—See quot. 1885.

1885. *D. Telegraph*, 14 Dec. "He is a little before his time, a trifle PREVIOUS, as the Americans say, but so are all geniuses."

1890. *Pall Mall Gaz.*, 23 June, 4, 2. Next year his term of service expires, and then we shall both be . . . But to state that now is what the Americans would call a little PREVIOUS. *Ibid.* (1901), 10 Ap., 1, 3. So there it is—an object-lesson in the inadvisability of the too PREVIOUS.

PREY, *subs.* (old).—Money.—B. E. (c.1696).

PRIAL, *subs.* (old gaming).—Three cards of a sort (at commerce, cribbage, &c.): DOUBLE-PRIAL = four of a kind: whence also, of persons and things. [A corruption of *pair-royal*: in quot. 1608 is seen a step towards PRIAL, whilst in quot. 1680 'pair-royal' rhymes with 'trial.']

1608. DAY, *Humour out of Breath*, sig. C2. *Fl.* Why two foolies? *Fr.* Is it not past two, doth it not come neere three, sister [meaning, to call her one]. *Pa.* Shew FERRYALL and take it.

a.1680. BUTLER, *Ballad on Parl.* But when they came to trial, Each one prov'd a fool, Yet three knaves in the whole, And that made up a PAIR-ROYAL.

PRIAP (OR PRIAPUS), *subs.* (venery).—
1. The *penis*: see PRICK; (2) = a DILDO (*q.v.*); and (3) = a STALLION (*q.v.*).

1672. BUTLER, *Dildoides*. Who envying their curious frame Expos'd their PRIAPS to the flame. *Ibid.* PRIAPUS thus, in Box opprest, Burnt like a Phoenix in his Nest.

d.1680. ROCHESTER [*Works* (1718), 87]. Saying if one PRIAPUS I could shew, One holy relic of kind pearly dew. *Ibid.* PRIAPUS squeez'd, one Snowball did emit.

1692. DRYDEN, *Juvenal* (1702), 114. Seen from afar and famous for his ware, He struts into the bath among the fair; Th' admiring crew to their devotion fall; And, kneeling, on their new PRIAPUS call.

PRICE, *verb.* (colloquial).—To enquire the cost of.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, II. 261. If you PRICED such a one in a drawing-room here, And was asked fifty pounds, You'd not say it was dear.

1886-96. MARSHALL, '*Pomes*' from *the Pink 'Un* ['The Age of Love'], 26. They PRICED him at fifty to one.

WHAT PRICE — ? *phr.* (racing and common).—How's that? What do *you* think? How much? What odds?

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippo*, xiv. What PRICE you, when you fell off the scaffold.

dum); gardener; gaying-instrument (GROSE); gear (SHAKSPEARE, FLORIO, BURNS); generation-tool (C. JOHNSON, URQUHART); gentle-tittler (URQUHART); girl-catcher; girlometer; goat; gooser; goose's-neck; gravy-maker; gristle (CLELLAND); gully-raker; gut-stick.

Hair-divider; hair-splitter; handstaff; hanging-Johnny; hard-bit (= the *penis* in erection); hermit; hunter.

Intercrural-pudding (URQUHART); Irish-root; It (generic).

Jack (an erection); Jack-in-the-box; Jack Robinson; Jacob; jargonelle; Jezabel; jigger; jiggling-bone (Irish); JOCK (*q.v.*); jockam (Old Cant); John Thomas; jolly-member (URQUHART); Julius Caesar.

Kennel-raker; key; king-member; kit (= *penis* and *testes*); knack (FLETCHER); knocker.

Ladies'-delight; ladies'-plaything; ladies'-treasure; lady-ware (= *penis* and *testes*); lamp-of-life; lance-of-love; Langolee (Irish); leather-dresser; leather-stretcher; life-preserver; lingam; little-Davy (Scots'); liver-turner; live-sausage (URQUHART); lobster; lodger; lollipop; love-dart; love's-picklock; luggage (= *penis* and *testes*); lullaby.

Machine; man-root (WHITMAN); man-Thomas; marrow-bone; marrowbone-and-cleaver; Master John Goodfellow (URQUHART); Master John Thursday (URQUHART); master-member (CLELLAND); master of the ceremonies; Master Reynard; matrimonial-peacemaker (GROSE); meat (generic); meat-skewer;

member (conventional); member-for-Cockshire; mentule; merry-maker; merry-man; middle; middle-leg; milkman; mole; mouse; mowdiwart (Scots').

Nag; nakedness; nature's-scythe; Nebuchadnezzar (*cf.* GREENS); needle (DORSET); nervous cane (URQUHART); nil-nisitando (URQUHART); Nimrod; nocker (or nine-inch-nocker, URQUHART); nippy.

Old-Adam; old man; old-Slimy; old Rowley.

Partner; peacemaker; pecker; pecnoster; pee-wee; pego (A. RADCLIFFE); pendulum; pestle; peter; phallus; picklock (CLELLAND); pike (SHAKSPEARE); pike-staff; pile-driver; pilgrim's-staff; pillicock (SHAKSPEARE, FLORIO, DURFEY); pillock (LYNDSAY); pin; pintle (FLORIO, BURNS, DORSET, MORRIS); pioneer-of-nature; pisser; pistol; pizzle; placket-racket (URQUHART); plenipo; ploughshare; plug (BURNS); plug-tail (GROSE); P-maker; pointer; Polyphemus; pond-snipe (WHITMAN); pony; poperine-pear (SHAKSPEARE); priap; priapus (ROCHESTER); prick (SHAKSPEARE, FLETCHER *et passim*); prickle (FLETCHER, CLELLAND, R. BURTON); private-property (= *penis* and *testes*); privates (= *penis* and *testes*); privities; privy-member (Biblical); pudding (DURFEY).

Quarter-master; quim-stake; quickening-peg (URQUHART).

Radish; ramrod; ranger; raw-meat; rector - of - the - females (ROCHESTER); rod; Robin (GASCOIGNE); Roger; rolling-pin; root; rubigo; rudder; ruffian; rump-splitter.

hic (RABELAIS); *histoire* (RABELAIS); *hochet* (= TOY [g.v.]: also *hochet de Venus*).

Il (= IT); *inconvenient*; *instrument* (RABELAIS: also *instrument de musique*).

Jacquemard (RABELAIS); *Jacques* (RABELAIS: also *Jacquot*); *jambe* (RABELAIS); *jambot* (VIL-LON); *Jean Chouart*; *Jean Jeudi* (RABELAIS); *joie*; *joujou*; *joyau* (also = female *tudendum*).

Kapros (RABELAIS).

Laboureur (RABELAIS: also *laboreur de nature*: cf. NATURE'S WORKSHOP = the female *pudendum*); *lacet*; *lance* (= LANCE-OF-LOVE: also *lance à deux boulets* and *lance gaie*: RABELAIS); *lancette*; *lard*; *lavette*; *le* (cf. *la* = female *pudendum*); *limace*; *lingot d'amour* (RABELAIS); *longon* (RABELAIS); *lourdois* (Old Fr.).

Machin (LA FONTAINE); *Ma-homet*; *petite majesté* (RABELAIS); *manche* (= BROOM-HANDLE: also *manche de gigot*: RABELAIS); *marque de la vais-selle* (RABELAIS); *mât*; *mèche*; *membre* (RABELAIS: also *membre viril*); *mentule* (RABELAIS); *mirliton* (RABELAIS); *misère*; *mistigouri* (RABELAIS); *moignon*; *moineau* (also *moineau de Lesbie*: RABELAIS); *Monsieur le Fils*; *Monsieur la Fine*; *morceau* (RABELAIS: also *morceaux hon-teux*; *moule*; *muscle*; *mutinum* (RABELAIS); *muto* (RABELAIS).

Nature de l'homme; *navette*; *nerf* (RABELAIS: also *nerf caver-neux*); *nervus* (RABELAIS); *nez*; *n'importe quoi* (= THINGUM-BOB); *niphleseth* (RABELAIS: from the Heb.); *nocturnus* (RABELAIS); *nœud* (= *penis* and *testes*).

Obélisque; *objet* (= THING); *oiseau* (RABELAIS); *onsieme doigt* (cf. MIDDLE-LEG); *organe*; *os à moelle* (= MARROW-BONE); *outil* (= TOOL: also *outil pria-pesque*, *outil à faire la pavorett*, and *outil à faire la belle joie*: RABELAIS); *ouvrier de nature*.

Pacquet de mariage (= *penis* and *testes*: also *pacquet d'amour*: RABELAIS); *paf*; *paille*; *pain* (cf. *devorant* = female *pudendum* = DUMB GLUTTON); *palette*; *palus* (RABELAIS); *partie* (also, in pl. *parties casuelles*, and *parties hon-teuses* = the *penis* and *testes*); *Pascal*; *pasnaise* (O. Fr.); *pastenade* (O. Fr.); *pâte*; *pauvre cas* (RABELAIS); *pauvre marchandise* (RABELAIS); *pau-vrette* (RABELAIS); *pauvre petit*; *paxillus* (RABELAIS); *peculium* (RABELAIS); *pelle* (cf. PRICK-SKINNER); *penart* (RABELAIS); *pendeloche* (RABELAIS); *penis* (RABELAIS); *perchant*; *Perrin-boute-avant* (RABELAIS); *perro-quet* (RABELAIS); *persuasif* (RABELAIS); *pestel* (RABELAIS); *petit* (cf. GRAND = female *pudendum*); *petit pauvre* (also *petit bonhomme*, *petit caporal* [cf. DR. JOHNSON and JULIUS CÆSAR], *petit jeune homme*, and *petit bout*); *petite flûte*; *petit frère* (cf. SCHWESTERLEIN = female *pudendum*); *petit voltigeur*; *phalle* (RABELAIS); *pible* (nautical: RABELAIS: also *pibol*); *piche*; *pièce* (RABELAIS: also *pièce de génération* and *pièce du milieu*); *pied de roi*; *pierre à casser les œufs* (RABELAIS: also *pierre de touche*); *pieu*; *pignon* (RABELAIS); *pilon* (= pestle: RABELAIS); *pilum* (RABELAIS: classi-cal); *pine* (= PRICK: RABELAIS, &c.); *pinette* (= PRICKLE: also *pinoche*); *pique* (RABELAIS);

pis (RABELAIS); *pissoir* (RABELAIS: *pissoir*=f.p.); *pistolander*; *pistolet*; *piston*; *pivot*; *plume charnelle*; *poignard*; *poinçon* (RABELAIS = PUNCH); *poinil* (also *poinille*); *pointe* (LA FONTAINE); *poireau*; *poisson*; *polichinelle*; *pommeau*; *pompe aspirante* (also *pompe foulante*); *potus* (RABELAIS); *potence* (RABELAIS); *poulain*; *poupignon*; *poussouer* (RABELAIS); *précurseur*; *premier rôle*; *Priape* (RABELAIS, &c.); *proportion*; *provision*; *pyramide*.

Quelque chose de chaud (also *quelque chose de court* = SOMETHING WARM and SOMETHING SHORT); *uenouille* (RABELAIS); *quelquette*; *queue* (RABELAIS = TAIL); *quille* (RABELAIS).

Racine (= ROOT); *radis* (*radis noir* = negro's penis); *raquette*; *rat* (also *raton*); *rélique* (BERANGER); *rène*; *rien*; *robinet de l'âme* (RABELAIS); *roide*; *rossignol* (LA FONTAINE); *rubens*; *rubiscabochon*.

Sacrement (BERANGER); *Saint-Agathon*; *Saint-Esprit de la culotte*; *Saint-Pierre*; *salsifis*; *sanguie*; *sannion* (RABELAIS: from the Gr.); *sansonnnet*; *sau-cisse* (= LIVE SAUSAGE: also *saucisson*); *scapus* (RABELAIS); *sceptre*; *schtiv* (*sch* + anagram of *vit*); *sentinelle*; *serin*; *seringue* (also *seringue à peruque*, and *seringue à poil*: RABELAIS); *sexe* (RABELAIS); *sifflet*; *simulacre d'amour*; *sixième sens*; *soulier*; *sous-préfet*; *sucre d'orge*.

Taurus (RABELAIS); *tétin* [RABELAIS]; *thermomètre*; *timon* (LA FONTAINE); *tirliberly*; *tiv* (anagram of *vit*); *torche*; *toton*; *totoquin* (RABELAIS); *touche d'alemant*; *trabes* (RABELAIS);

train; *trait*; *tréhans* (RABELAIS); *trépignoir*; *triquebille*; *troisième jambe* (cf. MIDDLE-LEG); *truelle*; *tube*; *turlututu*.

Ustensile (RABELAIS).

Vélu; *verge* (= YARD: RABELAIS: also *verge de saint-Benbit*); *verpe* (RABELAIS); *veretille* (RABELAIS); *verètre* (RABELAIS); *viande de devant* (also *viande crue*); *vibrequin*; *viçon* (RABELAIS); *violon*; *vireton* (RABELAIS); *virgule* (RABELAIS); *violet* (O. Fr.); *vit* (= PRICK); *vitault* (RABELAIS); *vivandier de nature* (RABELAIS).

Zèbre; *zist*.

GERMAN SYNONYMS.—*Bletszer* (= wedge); *Breslauer* (Viennese); *Bruder* (cf. *Schwesterlein* = little sister = female *pudendum*); *Butzelmann*; *Fiesel*; *Dickmann*; *Pinke*; *Schmeichas*; *Schwans*.

ITALIAN SYNONYMS.—*Anguisigola* (FLORIO = NEEDLE); *barbagianni*; *bestia* (FLORIO); *cazzo*; *coda* (= TAIL); *cotale* (FLORIO); *cucitusa* (FLORIO); *destriere*, or *destriero* (FLORIO) *dolcemelle* (FLORIO); *erpice* (FLORIO, 'a harrow to break clods of earth'); *facende* (FLORIO); *grignappola* (FLORIO); *mentole* (FLORIO); *natura* (FLORIO); *naturale* (FLORIO); *nervo* (FLORIO); *occhello*; *pastinaca* (FLORIO: 'pastinaca muranese, a dildo of glass'); *pastorale*; *pestello* (FLORIO: 'a pestle'); *pinchino*; *pinco* (FLORIO); *pina* (FLORIO: cf. Fr. *pine*); *rilla* (FLORIO); *robinetto* (FLORIO: 'a little rubie... also a dildo'); *rozzone* (FLORIO); *San Cresci-in-Mano* (FLORIO: 'because it grows in one's hand'); *San Giovanni bocca d'oro* (FLORIO); *tempella* (FLORIO: 'a great swag-

1612. DEKKER, *O per se O* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 11]. And PRIG and cloy so beshiply, All the dewscaville within.

1622. FLETCHER, *Beggar's Bush*, v. 2. Higgen bath FRIGGED the prancers in his days.

[1]. DRANT, *Horace*, 'To Julius Florus.' A FRIGGEMAN from him pryullie his money did purloine.

1712. SHIRLEY, *Triumph of Wit*, 'The Black Procession.' The nineteenth's a FRIGGER of CACKLERS who harms, The poor country higlers, and plunders the farms.

1724. J. HARPER, 'Frisky Moll's Song' in *Harlequin Jack Sheppard*. From FRIGGS that snaffle the prancers strong.

1743. FIELDING, *J. Wild* (1893), 17. The PRIG . . . the vulgar name for thief. *Ibid.*, 28. An undeniable testimony of the great antiquity of FRIGGISM. *Ibid.* Without honour FRIGGERY was at an end.

1749. GOADBY, *Bamfylde Moore-Carew*, 'Oath of Canting Crew.' PRIG of cackler, PRIG of prancer.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 160. A staring, gaping, hair-brain'd PRIG, Came up to steal his hat and wig.

1789. PARKER, *Life's Painter*, 158. In order to give them an opportunity of working upon the PRIG and buz, that is, picking of pockets.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. iii. Cadgers; . . . fish-fags; . . . and the FRIGS, spending the produce of the day; and all . . . bappy and comfortable.

1827. LYTTON, *Pelham*, lxxx. Well, you parish-bull PRIG, are you for lushing jackey, or pattering in the hum box?

1828-9. H. T. R., *Vidocq's Memoirs*, Tr. of *Un Jour a la Croix Rouge*. When twelve bells chimed, the FRIGS returned.

1829. MAGINN, *The Pickpocket's Chaunt*, i. As from ken to ken I was going, Doing a bit on the PRIGGING LAV.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Jack Sheppard* (1889), 20. I'll give him the edication of a PRIG—teach him the use of his forks . . . make him . . . as clever a cracksman as his father.

1838. DICKENS, *Oliver Twist*, xviii. I suppose you don't even know what a PRIG is? said the Dodger mournfully. 'I think I know that,' replied Oliver, looking up. 'It's a th—; you're one, are you not?' inquired Oliver, checking himself.

1840. BARHAM, *Ingoldby Legends*, 'Jackdaw of Rheims.' They can't find the ring! And the Abbot declared that, "when nobody twigg'd it, Some rascal or other had popp'd in, and FRIGG'd it!"

1841. HEWLETT, PETER PRIGGINS [Title].

1850. THACKERAY, *Policeman X* [Misc. (1899), 213]. PRIGS their shirts and umbrellers, PRIGS their boots and 'ats and clothes.

1851. BORROW, *Lovengro*, xxxi. We never calls them thieves here, but PRIGS and fakers.

1864. *Glasgow Daily Mail*, 9 May. All kinds of cheats, and thimble-riggers, and FRIGS.

1870. *London Figaro*, 19 Feb. They came and FRIGG'd my stockings, my linen, and my store; But they couldn't PRIG my sermons, for they were FRIGG'd before.

1891. CLARK RUSSELL, *Ocean Tragedy*, 87. She FRIGGED the furniture.

2. (old colloquial).—A superior person, *i.e.*, a person esteeming himself superior; in dress, morals, social standing, anything; and behaving as such. [The connotation is one of deliberate and aggressive superiority: you must get that, or you get no PRIG: see quot. 1836.] Also a bore. Whence FRIGDOM, FRIGGERY, FRIGGISHNESS, and FRIGGISM.—B. E. (c.1696); DYCBE (1748); GROSE (1785).

1676. ETHERIGE, *Man of Mode*, iii. 3. What spruce PRIG is that?

1686. DORSET, *Faithful Catalogue*. Her Court (the Gods be prais'd) has long been free From Irish PRIGGS, and such dull Sots as he.

1688. SHADWELL, *Sy. of Alsatia*, I. Thou shalt shine, and be as gay as any spruce PRIGG that ever walked the street. *Ibid.* If you meet either your father, or brother, or any from those FRIGSTERS, stick up thy countenance.

1695. CONGREVE, *Love for Love*, v. What does the old PRIG mean? I'll banter him, and laugh at him.

c.1697. TOM BROWN, *Satire on the French King* (Works (1715), i. 66. Thou that hast look'd so fierce, and talk'd so

1622. WEBSTER, *Devil's Law-Case*, i. 2. The wafer-woman that PRIGS abroad With musk-melons and malakatoones.

1765. RUTHERFORD, *Letters*, II, 11. The frank buyer—cometh near to what the seller seeketh, useth at last to refer the difference to his will, and so cutteth off the course of mutual PRIGGING.

d. 1796. BURNS, *Briggs of Ayr, New Brig*. Men wha grew wise PRIGGIN' owre hops an' raisins.

1800. RAMSAY, *Poems*, I, 439. In comes a customer, looks big, Looks generous, and scorns to PRIG.

1818. SCOTT, *Heart of Midlothian*, xxiv. Took the pains to PRIGG for her himself.

PRIG-STAR, *subs. phr.* (old).—I. See PRIG, *subs.* I.

2. (old).—‘A rival in love.’—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

1795. *New Canting Dictionary*, ‘When my Dimber Dell I Courted,’ ii. Her glaziers too are quite benighted Nor can any PRIG-STAR charm.

PRIM, *subs.* (old).—I. A wanton : see TART.

1509. BARCLAY, *Skip of Fooles* [JAMIESON (1874), I, 250]. [KINGTON OLIPHANT (i. 379): ‘The French had a phrase *cheveux primes*, delicate hair; a PRYME means a paramour: our adjective *prim* has now a very different sense; but we still talk of a *prime* cut.’]

c. 1520. *Mayd Emlyn* [HAZLITT, *Pop. Poet*, iv, 84]. The yonge lusty PRYMM She coude byte and whyne . . . And with a pretty gynne Gyue her husbände an horne.

1548. BARCLAY, *Fyfte Eclog.* [NARRS]. Aboute all London there was no propre PRYM, But long tyme had ben famylyer with hym.

2. (old).—‘A very neat or affected person.’—B. E. (c.1696).

PRIME, *adj.* (venery).—Sexually excited; PROUD (*q.v.* PRIDE).—GROSE (1785).

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Othello*, iii. 3. Were they as PRIME as goats, as hot as monkeys, as salt as wolves in pride.

2. (colloquial).—(1) Eager; more than ready. Whence (2) = of the first quality (esp. butchers’ : as in PRIME joints, PRIME American, &c.) ; BANG-UP (*q.v.*).—GROSE (1785). Hence, *verb.* = to fortify, to invigorate, to inspire, bring to the height of a situation : with liquor, information, counsel.

1637. JONSON, *Sad Shepherd*, I. ii. *Rob.* Had you good sport i’ your chase to-day? *John.* O PRIME!

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v. . . . Any person who is found an easy dupe to the designs of the family is said to be a PRIME flat.

1815. MOORE, *Tom Crib to Big Ben* [*Works* (1854), 401]. Having conquered the PRIME one that milled us all round. *Ibid.* (1819), *Tom Crib's Memorial*. . . What madness could impel So rum a Flat to face so PRIME a Swell. *Ibid.* (183 [?]), *Grand Dinner, &c.* [*Works* (1854), 575]. Joints of poetry—all of the PRIME.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. ii. Tom and Jerry have just dropped in, . . . quite PRIME for a lark.

1823. *Hints for Oxford*, 73. They [young Oxonians] for a determination when they sit down to table to have a row as soon as they are PRIMED, and often before they rise they commence the work of destruction on glasses and plates and decanters.

1823. BYRON, *Don Juan*, XI. 19. So PRIME, so swell, so nutty, and so knowing.

1827. LYTTON, *Pelham*, lxxxiii. You are going to stall off the Daw’s baby in PRIME TWIG.

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxx. Capital I said Mr. Benjamin Allen. PRIME I ejaculated Mr. Bob Sawyer.

1837. BARRHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends*, II. 8. Your thorough French Courtier . . . thinks it’s PRIME fun to astonish a citizen.

1854. WHYTE MELVILLE, *General Bounce*, viii. PRIMED with such sage counsel, his lordship determined to lose no time in “opening the trenches.” *Ibid.*, xii. A fat little man, PRIMED with port.

c. 1886. *Music Hall Song*, ‘They’re all very Fine and Large.’ They’re all very fine and large, they’re all very fresh and PRIME.

1690. DURFEE, *Collins Walk*, i. My behaviour may not yoke With the nice PRINCUMS of that folk.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PRINKING . . . PRINKT-UP, set up on the Cupboards-head in their best Cloaths, or in State, Stiff-starched. MISTRESS PRINCUM-FRANCUM, such a one.

1753. JANE COLLIER, *Art of Tormenting* [*Ency. Dict.*]. "She was every day longer PRINKING in the glass than you was."

1820. SCOTT, *Monastery*, xxiv. Ay, prune thy feathers, and PRINK thyself gay.

PRINT. IN PRINT, *adv. phr.* (colloquial).—Exactly in order. OUT OF PRINT = disordered; tumbled. QUITE IN PRINT = formal and precise: see TALK. — GROSE (1785).

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, 539. He must speak in PRINT, walk in PRINT, eat and drink in PRINT.

1625. JONSON, *Staple of News*, i. 1. *P. jnn.* Fits my ruff well? *Lin.* IN PRINT.

1851. *Notes and Queries*, 1 S. IV. 12. Take care, Sir, you'll put your hair OUT OF PRINT.

PRINTER'S-DEVIL. See DEVIL, *subs.*, sense 2.

PRINTED-CHARACTER, *subs. phr.* (common). — A pawn-ticket; a MORTGAGE-DEED (*q.v.*).

PRIORESS. See BETTER HORSE.

PRISCIAN'S-HEAD. TO BREAK PRISCIAN'S-HEAD, *verb. phr.* (literary).—To use bad grammar. [Lat. *diminutivum Prisciani caput*. Priscian a famous grammarian of the 5th century.]—GROSE (1785).

1527-37. ELLIS, *Orig. Letters* . . . [The well-known Father Forrest being ungrammatical is said to] BREKE MASTER PRECVENS HEDR.

1664. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, II. II. 219. And hold no sin so deeply red As that of BREAKING PRISCIAN'S HEAD.

1728. POPE, *Dunciad*, iii. 161. Some, free from rhyme or reason, rule or check, BREAK PRISCIAN'S HEAD, and Pegasus's neck.

1819. BYRON [*Life*, 'To Moore']. Also if there be any further BREAKING OF PRISCIAN'S HEAD, will you supply the plaster.

PRITTLE-PRATTLE. See PRATING-CHEAT.

PRIVATES, *subs.* (conventional).—The organs of generation, male or female. Also PRIVITY (of women), PRIVITIES, and PRIVY MEMBER. Analogous terms (venery) are PRIVATE PROPERTY = (1) *penis*, and (2) the female *pudendum*; PRIVY-HOLE (-COUNCIL or -PARADISE, or PRIVY) = the female *pudendum*.

1598. FLORIO, *Woilde of Wordes*, s.v. *Capocchio*. A woman's PRIVITIE.

1620. PERCY, *Folio MS.*, 'Fryar and Boye.' The thornes this while were rough and thicke, and did his PRIVY MEMBERS pricke.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* [*Works* (17 . . .), 21]. When on Grounsel He firkt her Mother's PRIVY-COUNSEL.

TO PRIVATE STITCH, *verb. phr.* (tailors').—To conceal the thread in stitching.

PRIVATE-BUSINESS, *subs. phr.* (Eton).—Extra work done with a tutor.

PRIVY, *subs.* (colloquial).—An outdoor cesspool.

1647. FLETCHER, *Noble Gent.*, v. 1. Lay all night for fear of puiusivants In Burgundy PRIVY-HOUSE.

1662. *Rump Songs*, i. 104. I hid myself i' the PRIVY.

1746. T. WARTON, *Prog. of Discontent*. This awkward hut, o'ergrown with ivy, We'll alter to a modern PRIVY.

See PRIVATE.

1655. FULLER, *Ch. Hist.*, v. 290. The Abbot also every Saturday was to visit their beds, to see if they had not shuffled in some softer matter or purloined some PROGGE for themselves. *Ibid.* Pandulf, an Italian and Pope's legate, a perfect artist in PROGGING for money.

1688. SHADWELL, *Sq. of Alsatia*, 11. So, here's the PROG, here's the dinner coming up.

1730. SWIFT, *Directions to Servants*, ii. You can junket together at nights upon your own PROG, when the rest of the house are a-bed.

1795. CUMBERLAND, *Jew*, ii. 2. *Jabal*. I have not had a belly-full since I belong'd to you. You take care there shall be no fire in the kitchen, master provides no PROG upon the shelf, so between you both I have plenty of nothing but cold and hunger.

1818. MOORE, *Fudge Family (Works)* (1854), 406. There's nothing beats feeding, And this is the place for it, Dicky, you dog, Of all places on earth—the head-quarters of PROG.

1837. BARHAM, *Ingoldsby Legends* (1862), 191. Och! the Count Von Strogono, sure he got PROG enough.

1845. DISRAELI, *Sybil*, III. vii. Ayn't you lucky, boys, to have reg'lar work like this, and the best of PROG!

1871. *Morning Advertiser*, 11 Sep. So we'll cut down their full rations, and knock off all their grog, Whilst I feast at home with sleek lord mayors on aldermanic PROG.

1893. MILLIKEN, *'Arry Ballads*, 18. See old mivvies with PROG-BASKETS prowling about. *Ibid.*, 27. Lots o' prime PROG in the bag.

Verb. (printers').—To prognosticate.

See PROG, *subs.*

PROGGER (or PROGGINS), *subs.* (University).—A proctor: whence TO BE PROGGED = to be proctorised; and PROGGING = a proctorial discipline.

PROGNOSTIC, *subs.* (literary).—An artistic feeder. [PROG (*q.v.*) + Gr. *gnosis*.]

PROJECT, *verb.* (American).—To play tricks; TO MONKEY (*q.v.*).

1847. *Chronicles of Pineville*, 181. I'll blow 'em all to everlastin' thunderation, if they come a PROJECTIN' about me.

PROM, *subs.* (common).—A promenade concert: cf. POP.

1902. *Free Lance*, 4 Jan., 358, 1. Musically speaking, there is never one of the programmes at the PROMS. that is unworthy of the attendance of the most cultured music lover.

PROMOTER, *subs.* (old).—See quot. 1509, and PUTTER-ON.

1509. BARCLAY [JAMIESON (1874), ii. 50], *Ship of Fools*. [OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 378. There is the word PROMOTER used for a lawyer; fifty years later it was degraded to mean an informer.]

1563. FOXE, *Acts and Monuments* [CATTLEY]. [OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 550. Barclay had used PROMOTER for a lawyer; Foxe constantly uses the word to signify an *informer*, and this last word is also employed.]

1608. *Yorkshire Tragedy*, i. 2. My second son must be a PROMOTER; and my third a thief.

2. (colloquial).—A fool-catcher.

PROMOSS, *verb.* (Australian).—To talk rubbish; to play the fool; TO GAMMON (*q.v.*).

PROMOTION. ON PROMOTION, *adv.* (common).—1. On approval; (2) unmarried.

1848. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, xlv. 'You want to smoke those filthy cigars,' replied Mrs. Rawdon. 'I remember when you liked 'em, though,' answered the husband . . . 'That was when I was ON MY PROMOTION, Goosey,' she said.

PROMPTER, *subs.* (Merchant Taylors' School).—One of the second form.

PROOF, *subs.* (University).—The best ale at Magdalen, Oxford.

1600. SHAKESPEARE, *Much Ado*, iv. 1. Talk with a man out at a window! A PROPER saying!

1664. PEPYS, *Diary*, 24 June. I was PROPERLY confounded. *Ibid.*, 14 July. All . . . was most PROPERLY false, and nothing like it true.

1843-4. HALIBURTON, *Attache*, xxvi. Father . . . gave me a wiper . . . that knocked me over and hurt me PROPERLY.

TO MAKE ONESELF PROPER, *verb. phr.* (colloquial). — To adorn; to TITTIVATE (*q.v.*).

PROPERTY. TO MAKE PROPERTY OF ONE, *verb. phr.* (old). — To use as a convenience, tool, or cat's-paw. — GROSE (1785); BEE (1823).

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *R. John*, v. 2, 79. I am too high-born to be PROPERTIED.

PROPHET, *subs.* (Fleet St.). — A sporting tipster.

PROPSTER and PROP-MAILER. *See* PROP.

PROS, *subs.* (Cambridge). — A W.C.: hence the old undergrad wheeze: — When is *pote* put for *pros*? When the nights are dark and dreary, When our legs are weak and weary, When the quad we have to cross, Then is *pote* put for *pros*.

Adv. (streets'). — *See* quot.

1887. *Walford's Antiquarian*, April, 250. Pros means proper. Nothing but the word prosperous offers in explanation.

PROSE, *subs.* (Winchester). — A lecture: also as *verb.*

PROSIT, *intj.* (academical). — A salutation in drinking: 'Your health!' [*Ut tibi prosit meri potio.*] Fr. *Ut!*

PROSS, *subs.* (streets'). — 1. A prostitute: *see* TART: also PROSSY.

2. (theatrical). — A cadged drink: also as *verb.* (or *adv.*, ON THE PROSS) = (1) to sponge, and (2) to instruct or break in a stage-struck youth; PROSSER = (1) a cadger of drinks, dinners, and small monies (but *see* quot. 1851), and (2) a PONCE (*q.v.*). PROSSER'S AVENUE = the Gaiety bar.

1851. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, iii. 145. The regular salary [of strolling player] doesn't come to more than a pound a-week, but then you make something out of those who come up on the parade, for one will chuck you 6d., some 1s. and 2s. 6d. We call those parties PROSSERS.

c. 1876. *Song*, 'I Can't Get at it.' I've PROSSED my meals from off my pals, oft-times I've badly fared.

1883. *Referee*, 18 Nov., 3, 4. For he don't haunt the Gaiety Bar, dear boys, A-standing (or PROSSING FOR) drinks.

1885. *Saturday Review*, 15 Aug., 218. Accept his decision and neither thunder against him in PROSSER'S AVENUE (as it is called), nor encourage young journalists to state your views upon him in print.

1886. *Cornhill Mag.*, Nov., 559. Gradually, he became what is known as a PROSSER—a loafer, a beggar of small loans, a respectful attendant outside the circle of other men's merriment, into which for charity's sake he was sometimes invited.

1893. EMERSON, *Signor Lippo*, xiv. He started walking about clamming, getting a few middays as from one and another, fairly ON THE PROSS and glad to put up with a quatro soldi kip, like the rest of us.

PROTECTED-MAN, *subs. phr.* (old naval). — A merchant seaman unfit for the Royal Service and therefore free of the press-gang.

PROTECTION. UNDER PROTECTION, *phr.* (conventional). — In KEEPING (*q.v.*); living TALLY (*q.v.*); DABBED-UP (*q.v.*).

PRUSSIAN-BLUE, *subs. phr.* (obsolete).—*See* quot. 1868.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxxiii. 'Vell, Sammy,' said the father. 'Vell, my PROOSHAN BLUE,' responded the son.

1868. BREWER, *Phrase & Table*, s.v. PROOSHAN BLUE (*My*). A term of great endearment. After . . . Waterloo the Prussians were immensely popular, and in connection with the Loyal True Blue Club gave rise to the toasts, "The True Blue" and the "PRUSSIAN BLUE."

PRY, *subs.* (old : now recognised as *verb.*).—A busybody ; a 'peeping Tom' : now PAUL PRY (*q.v.*) : from Poole's farce.—B. E. (c. 1696) ; GROSE (1785).

PRYGGE. *See* PRIG.

PSALM-SMITER, *subs. phr.* (common).—A ranting dissenter.

PUB (or **PUBLIC**), *subs.* (colloquial).—A tavern ; IN THE PUBLIC LINE = engaged as a licensed victualler.

1816. SCOTT, *Old Mortality*, xli. This woman keeps an inn, then interrupted Morton. A PUBLIC, in a prim way, replied Blane.

1840. LYTTON, *Paul Clifford*, xxii. Ascertaining the topography of the PUBLIC at which he spake.

1866. ELIOT, *Felix Holt*, xxviii. The Cross-Keys was a very old-fashioned PUBLIC.

c.1871. *Siliad*, 16. All the great houses and the minor PUBS. *Ibid.* Peelers . . . watch PUBLICS with a jealous eye.

1882. PAVN, *Thicker than Water*, xxxv. One doesn't expect to see . . . the inevitable hanger-on of PUBS outside, waiting for a job.

1884. *Good Words*, June, 400, 1. He had done twelve months for crippling the chucker-out of one of these PUBS.

1885. *D. Telegraph*, 31 Oct. The difficulty will be to persuade him to come out of the domestic paradise into a world without PUBS.

1886-87. MARSHALL, 'Pomes' [It's a Sad Heart that never Rejoices'], 76. The bloke at the PUB.

1887. HENLEY, *Villon's Good-Night*, i. You sponges miking round the PUBS.

1892. MILLIKEN, 'Arvy Ballads', 3. No PUB but a sand-parloured shanty.

1899. WHITING, *John St.*, vii. Waiting for the opening of the PUBS.

PUBLIC-BUILDINGS. **INSPECTOR OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS**, *subs. phr.* (common).—(1) An idler : from choice or necessity : a loafer or a man seeking work.

PUBLIC-LEDGER, *subs. phr.* (common).—A prostitute : *see* TART. ['Because (GROSE), like that paper, open to all parties.']

PUBLIC-MAN, *subs. phr.* (old).—A bankrupt.—GROSE (1785).

PUBLIC-PATTERER, *subs. phr.* (obsolete).—*See* quot.

1866. HOTTEN, *Slang Dict.*, s.v. PUBLIC PATTERNERS, swell mobsmen who pretend to be Dissenting preachers, and harangue in the open air to attract a crowd for their confederates to rob.

PUCK, *subs.* (old).—The devil : *see* SKIPPER.

1362. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman*, xix. 282. Fro the FOUKES poundfalde no maynprise may ous fecche.

PUCKER, *verb.* (showmen's).—*See* quot.

1851. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, i. 269. The trio at this stage of the performances began PUCKERING (talking privately) to each other in murdered French, dashed with a little Irish.

IN A PUCKER, *phr.* (colloquial).—Anxious ; agitated ; angry ; confused : *cf.* PUDDER.—DYCHE (1748) ; GROSE (1785). Whence TO PUCKER UP = to get angry.

1751. SMOLLETT, *Peregrine Pickle*, ii. The whole parish was in a PUCKER : some thought the French had landed.

1825. NEAL, *Bro. Jonathan*, i. vii. Miriam [was] IN A plaguy PUCKER.

1682. *Wit and Mirth* ('From Twelve Years Old'), 18. He Rumb'd and Jumb'l'd me o'er, and o'er, Till I found he had almost wasted the store Of his PUDDING.

1719. DUFFY, *Pills to Purge*, vi. 301. Quoth he, my dear Philli, I'll give unto thee, Such PUDDING you never did see.

3. (old).—The guts.—GROSE (1785). Hence PUDDING-HOUSE = the belly; PUDDING-KEN = a cook-shop; PUDDING-SNAMMER = a cook-shop thief; PUDDING-FILLER (old Scots) = a glutton.

1503-8. DUNBAR (*Bannatyne Club*), 44 st., 14. Sic PUDDING-FILLARIS, descending down from millaris, Within this land was never hard nor sene.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Merry Wives*, ii. 1. As sure as his guts are made of PUDDINGS.

1596. NASH, *Saffron Walden* [*Works*, iii. 148]. What a commotion there was in his entrayles or PUDDING-HOUSE, for want of food. *Ibid.* (1599), *Lenient Stuffe* (*Harl. Misc.*, vi. 166). He . . . thrust him downe his PUDDING-HOUSE at a gobbe.

1607. ROWLANDS, *Diogenes Laethorne*, 7 (Hunterian Club's Repr., 1873). All the guttes in his PUDDING-HOUSE rumble and grumble at their slender allowance.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 206. As on the ground his bum came smash His PUDDINGS jumbled with a swash.

1857. SNOWDEN, *Mag. Assistant* (3rd ed.), 446. One who steals food. A PUDDING SNAMMER.

1893. EMERSON, *Lippo*, x. I just went to one of my regular PUDDING-KENS to sell the mungarily to some of the needies there.

4. (common).—Good luck.

COLLOQUIALISMS, mostly contemptuous are:—PUDDING-BELLIED = big-stomached; PUDDING-FACED = fat, round, and smooth in face; PUDDING-HEAD = a fool: whence PUDDING-HEADED (GROSE) = stupid; PUDDING-HEART = a coward;

PUDDING-HOSE = baggy breeches; PUDDING-SLEEVES = (1) large baggy sleeves as in the full dress clerical gown; whence (2) a parson: see SKY-PILOT; IN PUDDING TIME (GROSE) = in the nick of time, opportunely; PUDDINGV = fat and round; PUDDING ABOUT THE HEELS = slovenly, thick-ankled; TO RIDE POST FOR A PUDDING = to exert for little cause; TO GIVE THE CROWS A PUDDING (GROSE) = (1) to hang on a gibbet, and (2) to die: see HOP THE TWIG. Also proverbs and sayings:—'The proof of the PUDDING is in the eating'; 'Hungry dogs will eat dirty PUDDINGS'; 'Cold PUDDING will settle your love (GROSE)'; 'Better some of a PUDDING than none of a pie'; 'There is no deceit in a bag-PUDDING'; 'PUDDINGS and paramours should be hastily handled'; 'PUDDINGS an' wort are hasty dirt'; 'It would vex a dog to see a PUDDING creep'; 'Be fair conditioned and eat bread with your PUDDING.'

1594. TYLNEY, *Lochrine*, iii. 3. You come IN PUDDING TIME, or else I had dress'd them.

1599. SHAKESPEARE, *Hen. V.*, ii. 1, 91. By my troth he'll YIELD THE CROW A PUDDING one of these days.

1608. WITHAL, *Dict.*, 3. I came in season, as they say IN PUDDING TIME, tempore veni.

1614. *Terence in English* [NARES]. *Per tempus advenis*, you come IN PUDDING TIME, you come as well as may be.

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. Our land-lord did that shift prevent, Who came IN PUDDING TIME, and tooke his rent.

1663. BUTLER, *Hudibras*, i. 2. Mars that still protects the stout, IN PUDDING TIME came to his aid.

1707. WARD, *Hud. Red.*, ii. ii. 25. Sweethearts aft'r'em will be crowding Like HUNGRY DOGS TO DIRTY PUDDING.

PUFF, *subs.* (old: now colloquial).

—1. A sham; an impostor; (2) false praise: also PUFFING and PUFFERY (*see* *quots.* 1732 and 1779). Whence (3) a decoy: as a critic who extols a book or a play from interested motives; a mock-bidder, or RUNNER-UP (*q.v.*) of prices at auctions; or a gambler's confederate or BONNET (*q.v.*): also PUFFER (BAILEY, 1728); (GROSE, 1785). As *adj.* (also PUFFED) = fat; and as *verb.* (also PUFF UP) = to blow, to bloat, to fill with wind, falsehood, conceit: whilst PUFF-WORKER (American) = a penny-a-liner making a speciality of theatrical paragraphs.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Merry Wives*, v. 5. What . . . a PUFFED man. *Ibid.* (1598), 2 *Hen. IV.*, v. 3. I think a' be, but Goodman PUFF of Barston.

1610. JONSON, *Alchemist*, ii. 1. *Mam.* That is his fire-drake, His Lungs . . . he that PUFFS his coals . . . *Ibid.* Lungs . . . I will restore thee thy complexion, PUFFE.

1647. FLETCHER, *Nice Valour*, iv. 1. Why I confess at my wife's instigation once (As women love these herald's kick-shaws naturally) I bought em; but what are they, think you? PUFFS.

1729. HEARNE, *Diary*, 7 Sep. I remember Bale's book is PUFF'D with other lies.

1731. *St. James's Eveg. Post*, 'List of Officers attached to Gaming-houses'. . . 4. Two PUFFS, who have money given them to play with. 5. A 'Clerk' who is a check upon the PUFFS to see that they sink none of the money given them to play with. 6. A 'Squib' who is a PUFF of a lower rank, who serves at half salary while he is learning to deal.

1732. *Weekly Register*, 27 May. PUFF has become a cant word, signifying the applause set forth by writers . . . to increase the reputation and sale of a book, and is an excellent stratagem to excite the curiosity of gentle readers.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 79. If I had a mind to PUFF my vices into virtues, I might call this sloth of mine a philosophical indifference. *Ibid.*

(1751), *Peregrine Pickle*, xciii. This science, which is known by the vulgar appellation of PUFFING, they carried to such a pitch of finesse, that an author very often wrote an abusive answer to his own performance, in order to inflame the curiosity of the town, by which it had been overlooked.

1754. *The World*, No. 100. I hope that none . . . will . . . suspect me of being a hired and interested PUFF of this work.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 157. Tho' we, by Jove, and I'm no PUFFER, By the comparison can't suffer.

1779. SHERIDAN, *Critic*, i. 2. *Puff.* I am, sir, a practitioner in panegyric, or, to speak more plainly, a professor of the art of PUFFING . . . 'Twas I first taught [auctioneers] to crowd their advertisements with panegyrical superlatives, each epithet rising above the other, like the bidders in their own auction rooms . . . PUFFING is of various sorts; the principal are the PUFF direct, the PUFF preliminary, the PUFF collateral, the PUFF collusive, and the PUFF oblique, or PUFF by implication.

1806. ELDON, '*Mason v. Armitage*', 13 Ves., 25, 37. Upon the suspicion that the plaintiff was a PUFFER, the question was put whether any PUFFERS were present.

1833. CARLYLE, *Sartor*, i. ii. At an epoch when PUFFERY and quackery have reached a height unexampled in the annals of mankind.

1836. MARRYAT, *Japhet*, xxxiv. They were very pretty, amiable girls, and required no PUFFING on the part of her ladyship.

1839. MARTINEAU, *Literary Lionism* [*London and Westminster Review*, April]. Like newspaper PUFFERY, which is an evidence of over population.

1850. KINGSLEY, *Alton Locke*, v. They wouldn't go home from sermon to sand the sugar, and put sloe-leaves in the tea, and send out lying PUFFS of their vamped-up goods.

1866. *London Miscellany*, 5 May, 201. He said he had been in the habit of frequenting mock auctions . . . They had a barker to entice people in, and then confederates or PUFFERS would say to the person looking at the article for sale, 'Ah! that is a fine watch (or whatever it might be); I should think that is worth a good deal; if I were you I'd buy it.'

1858. MAYHEW, *Paved with Gold*, 11. xii. 184. He was known by his brother PUGS to be one of the gamest hands in the ring.

1882. "THORMANBY," *Famous Racing Men*, 75. John Gully . . . retired from the Ring, and like most of his brother PUGS, took a public-house.

1887. HENLEY, *Villon's Good-Night*, 2. You bleeding bonnets, PUGS, and subs.

1888. *Referee*, 21 Oct. The sporting papers always kept the PUGS in their proper place, and scarcely contemplated they would have to do lip and lackey service to them.

1891. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 20 Mar. A posse of PUGS guarded the course.

4. (domestics'). — An upper servant : hence PUG'S-HOLE = the housekeeper's room.—HALLIWELL (1847).

5. A dog : with no reference to breed.

6. (sporting).—A fox.

1809. EDGEWORTH, *Absentee*, vii. There is a dead silence till PUG is well out of cover.

1849. KINGSLEY, *Yeast*, i. Some well-known haunts of PUG.

PUGGARD, *subs.* (old).—A thief : hence PUGGING = thievish.

1604. SHAKSPEARE, *Winter's Tale*, iv. 2. The white sheet bleaching on a hedge . . . Doth set my PUGGING tooth an edge.

1611. MIDDLETON, *Roaring Girl* (DODSLEY, *Old Plays* (REED), vi. 115). Lifters, nips, foists, PUGGARDS.

PUKE, *subs.* (American).—I. A term of contempt : *cf.* PUKER (Shrewsbury) = a good-for-nothing.

1847. ROSS, *Squatter Life*, 152. Captain and all hands are a set of cowardly PUKES.

2. (American).—An inhabitant of the State of Missouri (*Century Dict.*).

Verb. (old).—To vomit : still in use at Winchester.—B. E. (c.1696).

1600. SHAKSPEARE, *As You Like It*, ii. 7. The infant Mewling and PUKING in the nurse's arms.

1734. POPE, *Satires of Donne*, iv. 153. As one of Woodward's patients, sick and sore, I PUKED.

1893. MILLIKEN, *Arvy Ballads*, 78. People PUKED at the shams till they think the originals ain't no great shakes.

PULING, *adj.* and *adv.* (old : now recognised). — Sickly : hence PULER = a weakling.—B. E. (c.1696).

1608. *Yorkshire Tragedy*, i. 1. My young mistress keeps such a PULING for a lover.

1609. *Man in the Moone*, Sig. G. If she be pale of complexion, she will prove but a PULER ; is she high coloured, an ill cognizance.

c.1617. FLETCHER and others, *Knight of Malta*, ii. 3. Come . . . put this PULING passion out of your mind.

1820. LAMB, *New Year's Eve* (GIBBINGS, *Works*, iii. 181). Where be those PULING fears of death ?

PULL, *subs.* (old and still colloquial).—I. A drink ; a GO (*q.v.*) : as *verb.* = to drink ; TO LUSH (*q.v.*). PULLER-ON = an appetiser : of liquids only : *cf.* DRAWER-ON.

1436. *Political Songs* ['Master of the Rolls,' ii. 169]. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 249. The verb PULLE takes the sense of *dibere*].

1469. *Coventry Myst.* (HALLIWELL), 142. I PULLE oo draught.

1600. DECKER, *Sho. Holiday* [*Works* (1873), i. 22]. O heele give a villanous PULL at a can of double beere.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, lvi. The vessel being produced, I bade him decant his bottle into it . . . and said, "Pledge you." He stared . . . "What ! all at one PULL, measter Randan ?"

1760. FOOTE, *Minor*, i. *Mrs. Cole*. I won't trouble you for the glass; my hands do so tremble and shake, I shall but spill the good creature. *Lead*. Well PULLED.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 246. When my landlord does not nick me . . . But very fairly fills it full, I just can swigg it at one PULL.

1820. *The Fancy*. We'll PULL a little deady.

1825. SCOTT, *Talisman*, xxvi. Wash it down with a brimming flagon, man, or thou wilt choke upon it.—Why so—well PULLED!

1836. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, lii. Taking a long and hearty PULL at the rum-and-water.

1857. TROLLOPE, *Three Clerks*, xlv. A deep PULL at the pewter.

1868. WHYTE-MELVILLE, *White Rose*, II. ii. The other . . . sucked in a long PULL of his hot coffee.

1888. *Century Mag.*, xxxviii. After a long PULL at the pitcher of persimmon beer.

1891. NEWMAN, *Scampering Tricks*, 49. I went straight away and had a PULL of rum.

2. (colloquial).—An advantage; a hold; power: *e.g.*, TO HAVE A PULL OVER ONE = to have at an advantage, in one's power, or under one's thumb. — GROSE (1785); VAUX (1819).

c.1500. MEDWALL, *Interlude of Nature*, sig. C ii. It cost me a noble . . . The scald capper sware, That yt cost hym euen as myche But there Pryde had a PULL.

1783. BURGOWNE, *Lord of the Manor*, iii. 1. You'll have quite the PULL of me in employment.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. ii. [The watchmen,] besides having THE PULL in their favour, in opening the charge, and colouring it as they think proper. . . .

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, xli. They know . . . who naturally have the PULL over them.

1856. HUGHES, *Tom Brown's School-Days*, I. vii. What a PULL, said he, that it's lie-in-bed, for I shall be as lame as a tree, I think.

1868. WHYTE-MELVILLE, *White Rose*, II. 24. It's a great PULL not having married young.

1885. *D. Telegraph*, 21 Dec. The PULL in the weights alone enabled Ivanhoe to win by a length.

1886-96. MARSHALL, '*Pomes*' ['Her Sunday Clothes'], 105. She'd also a PULL o'er those well-dressed elves.

1888. BOLDREWOOD, *Robbery Under Arms*, xxiii. We had twice the PULL now, because so many strangers, that couldn't possibly be known to the police, were straggling over all the roads.

1892. *Half-Holiday*, 19 Mar., 91, 2. I had all the advantage of having a better case than he. I had that PULL on him.

1892. GUNTER, *Miss Dividends*, xi. Don't this give the Church a PULL upon the daddy?

3. (old).—See quot.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v. PULL. . . . A person speaking of any intricate affair, or feat of ingenuity, which he cannot comprehend, will say, There is some PULL at the bottom of it, that I'm not fly to.

4. (common).—An attempt to extort something from another; a GO (*q.v.*).

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 74. Relations and strangers were all for having a PULL at him.

5. (colloquial).—Rowing exercise: also as *verb.* = to row.

1841. HOOK, *Fathers and Sons*, xvii. To PULL Lady Cramly and her daughters down the river.

Verb. I. See subs. I.

2. (cricketers').—To strike a ball from the 'off' to the 'leg' side of the wicket. TO TAKE A PULL = to drive a straight ball.

3. (thieves').—To arrest; to raid: see NAB and COP. Whence PULLED UP = brought before a magistrate.—GROSE (1785).

c.1811. *Broadside Ballad* (FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 77). He had twice been PULL'D, and nearly lagg'd, but got off by going to sea.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v. PULL . . . To PULL a man, or have him PULLED is to cause his apprehension for some offence; and it is then said that Mr. PULLEN is concerned.

1836. DICKENS, *Sketches by Boz*, 82. The loquacious little gentleman . . . finding that he had already paid more than he ought, avowed his unalterable determination to PULL UP the cabman in the morning.

1871. *Figaro*, 15 April. The police PULLED every Keno establishment in the city. PULLING is the slang for seizing the instruments, and arresting the players and proprietors.

4. (racing).—To slow a horse, while seeming to ride one's best.

1868. OUIDA, *Two Flags*, x. They . . . had broken down like any . . . jockey bribed to PULL at a suburban selling-race.

1889. *Evening Standard*, 25 June. (Sir Chas. Russell's speech in Durham-Chetwynd case). Sir G. Chetwynd never did anything so gross and vulgar as that [tell the jockey to PULL horses], and that if horses were PULLED, that was not the way in which in any class of turf society instructions were given.

1890. *Sat. Rev.*, 1 Feb., 134, 1. They all bet, and when they lose of course it is the fault of the jockey, or of the trainer, or of the owner, who gave instructions to have his horse PULLED.

1891. GOULD, *Double Event*, 102. Wells had PULLED horses when no one but a thorough judge could have seen the game.

5. (old).—To steal; to cheat.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, Prologue, 654. Ful prively a finch [= novice] eke coude he PULL.

1625. JONSON, *Staple of News*, ii. 1. What plover's that they've brought TO PULL.

1821. HAGGART, *Life*, 62. I PULLED a scout, and passed it to Graham.

1851-61. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, 1, 460. We lived by thieving and I do still —by PULLING flesh

THE LONG PULL, *subs. phr.* (licensed victuallers').—See quot.

1901. *D. Telegraph*, 24 Dec., 3, 4. The attempt to abolish the LONG PULL made by the Birmingham brewers has ended in failure. . . . The result was seen in decreased profits. Customers left their houses and patronised others where over-measure was given.

COLLOQUIALISMS are : — TO

PULL DOWN, 1. (thieves': see quot.

1857); (2) to destroy, to depress,

to endanger chances; TO PULL

IN THE PIECES = to make money:

Fr. *faire son beurre*; TO PULL IT

(or FOOT) = to decamp: see AM-

PUTATE and SKEDADDLE; TO

PULL THROUGH = to succeed,

to get out of a difficulty;

TO PULL TOGETHER = to co-ope-

rate; TO PULL UP = (1) to take to

task, to arrest, to stop; (2) to

exert oneself, to make a special

effort; TO PULL FACES = to

grimace; TO PULL A LONG FACE

= to look BLUE (*q.v.*); TO PULL

OFF = to succeed; TO GET THERE

(*q.v.*); TO PULL ONESELF TO-

GETHER = to rouse oneself; to

rally; TO PULL (or DRAW) IN

ONE'S HORNS = to retract; to

cool down (GROSE, 1785); TO

PULL DOWN A SIDE = to spoil

all; TO PULL BY THE SLEEVE =

to remind; TO PULL OUT

(American) = (1) to CHUCK (*q.v.*);

2 (athletic) = to strive to the ut-

most, TO EXTEND (*q.v.*), usually

by means of a friendly pace-

maker; 3 (common) = to run

away; 4 (tailors') = to hurry, to

get on with work in hand; TO

PULL UP A JACK (see quot.

1819); TO PULL A KITE = to

be serious, to LOOK STRAIGHT

(*q.v.*); TO PULL ONE'S (or DRAW)

THE LEG = to impose upon, to

BAMBOOZLE (*q.v.*), TO CHAFF

(*q.v.*); TO PULL ABOUT = (1) to

masturbate: see FRIG, and (2)

1891. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 3 Ap. The chief bank official . . . told him pretty plainly that he must now **PULL UP**, and arrangements made in regard to certain over-due acceptances.

1896. CRANE, *Maggie*, xiv. 'She was **PULLING M' LEG**, That's the whole amount of it,' he said.

1898. WHITEING, *John St.*, xxix. I am working up a little affair of my own just now . . . but I'm not sure I shall be able to **PULL IT OFF**.

1901. *Troddles*, 38. He certainly didn't perceive that Wilks was **PULLING HIS LEG**, and he stammered out expressions of gratitude.

PULLED-TRADE, *subs. phr.* (tailors').—Secured work.

PULLET (POULET or PULLEY), *subs.* (colloquial).—(1) A girl of tender years. Hence **PULLET-SQUEEZER** = an amateur of young girls; a **CHICKEN-FANCIER** (*q.v.*); **VIRGIN-PULLET** = 'a young woman . . . who though often trod has never laid.'—BEE (1823). Also 2 (thieves) = a female confederate.

PULLING-TIME, *subs. phr.* (provincial).—See quot.

1847. HALLIWELL, *Arch. and Prov. Words*, s.v. **PULLING-TIME**. The evening of a fair-day, when the wenches are pulled about.

PULLMAN-PUP, *subs. phr.* (railway).—See quot.

1890. *Tit-Bits*, 1 Nov. The Midland night Scotch train from Leeds runs in front of the London Scotch train, and is therefore nicknamed the **PULLMAN PUP**.

PULLY-HAULY, *adj. phr.* (colloquial).—Rough-and-tumble: **HAUL DEVIL, PULL BAKER** (*q.v.*). **TO PLAY AT PULEY-HAULY**, *verb. phr.* (venery).—To copulate: see **GREENS** and **RIDE**.—GROSE (1785).

PULPIT, *subs.* (venery).—The female *pu*dendum: see **MONOSYLLABLE**.

1656. *Choice Drollery*, 44. Quoth she, the Son is prov'd a Daughter. But be content, if God doth blesse the Baby, She has a **PULPIT** where a Preacher may be.

c.1685-95. *Broadside Ballad* [*Roxburghe Ballads* (Brit. Mus.), ii. 73] 'The Country Parson's Folly.' He pitch'd on a subject was hard by the rump, And into her **PULPIT** he straightways did jump, Where all the night long he her cushion did thump.

PULPIT-CUFFER (**DRUBBER, DRUMMER, SMITER, or THUMPER**), *subs. phr.* (common).—A ranting parson; a **CUSHION-THUMPER** (*q.v.*). Whence **PULPIT-CUFFING** (&c.) = violent exhortation.

1699. BROWN [*Works* (1715), i. 209]. A **PULPIT-DRUBBER** by profession, who knows all the witches forms in the kingdom.

1706. WARD, *Hud. Redivivus*, vi. 10. 'Thought I, for all your **PULPIT-DRUMMING**, Had you no Hose to hide your Bum in.

PULPITEERS, *subs.* (Winchester College).—See quot.

1891. WRENCH, *Winchester Word Book*, s.v. **PULPITEERS**. An arrangement during Cloister-time of Sixth Book and Senior Part V. going up to books together . . . Middle and Junior Part taken together were called Cloisters.

PULSE. TO FEEL ONE'S PULSE, *verb. phr.* (colloquial).—1. To gauge opinions, views, feelings, &c.; **TO SOUND** (*q.v.*); **TO TAKE ONE'S MEASURE** (*q.v.*).

d.1841. SOUTHEY, *Letters*, iv. 139. So much matter has been ferretted out that this Government wishes to tell its own story, and **MY PULSE WAS FELT**.

2. (venery).—To grope a woman.

1648-50. BRATHWAYTE, *Barnaby's J/L* (1723), 50, 51. Thence to Meredin did steer I, Where grown foot-sore and sore weary, I repos'd where I chuck'd Joan-a, **FELT HER PULSE** (*Hopitem in genu cepit*).

Verb. (colloquial). — 1. To question artfully; to make one tell without knowing he's telling; TO SOUND (*q.v.*). Hence, as *subs.* = an indirect question; 'Your PUMP is good but the sucker's dry!' = a retort or an attempt TO PUMP.—B. E. (*c.* 1696); GROSE (1785).

1633. JONSON, *Tale of a Tub*, iv. iii. I'll stand aside whilst thou PUMP'ST out of him His business.

d. 1635. RANDOLPH, *Muses' Looking Glass*, ii. 4. I'll in to PUMP my dad, and fetch thee more.

1668. DRYDEN, *An Evening's Love*, iii. Markall, PUMP the woman; and see if you can discover anything to save my credit.

1693. CONGEEVE, *Old Batchelor*, v. 4. She was PUMPING me about how your worship's affairs stood.

1740. RICHARDSON, *Pamela*, i. 208. For all her PUMPS, she gave no hint.

1749. FIELDING, *Tom Jones*, xi. vi. She therefore ordered her maid to PUMP out of him by what means he had become acquainted with her person.

1826. BUCKSTONE, *Death Fetch*, ii. 2. She wants to PUMP me, but two words to that bargain.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xvi. Undergoing the process of being PUMPED.

1847. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, vii. But old Tinker was not to be PUMPED by this little cross-questioner.

1886-96. MARSHALL, '*Pomes*' from the *Pink 'Un* ['The Age of Love'], 26. So she sought him and gently PUMPED him.

1893. MILLIKEN, '*Arry Ballads*', 32. I've parted so free to the coachies, and artfully put on the PUMP.

2. (old colloquial).—To duck under the pump: also to GIVE A TASTE OF THE PUMP (B. E., *c.* 1696, and GROSE, 1785); 'CHRISTENED WITH PUMP-WATER,' said of a red-faced boy or girl (RAY, 1760, and GROSE, 1785).

1839. AINSWORTH, *Jack Sheppard* [1889], 13. If he don't tip the cole without more ado, GIVE HIM A TASTE OF THE PUMP, that's all.

3. (colloquial).—To go breathless; TO WIND (*q.v.*); PUMPED OUT (or DRY) = completely blown.—B. E. (*c.* 1696). Hence PUMPER = anything that PUMPS: as counsel, a race, a course, a spurt, &c.

1860. RUSSELL, *Diary in India*, ii. 370. Darkness began to set in, the artillery horses were PUMPED OUT, and orders were given to retire.

1882. *Field*, 28 Jan. Tiger . . . had all the best of a long PUMPING course.

1888. *Sportsman*, 28 Nov. She came on the scene when Bismarck was quite PUMPED out.

5. (common).—To vomit; to CAST UP ACCOUNTS (*q.v.*).—GROSE (1785).

6. (American).—To steal.

1824. *Atlantic Mag.*, i. 344. Vot I wants to show is the way in which she PUMPED my fob this ere mornin'.

7. (common).—To cry.

1837. MARRYAT, *Snarley Yow*. And she did PUMP While I did jump In the boat to say, Good bye.

PUMP - AND - TORTOISES (THE), *subs. phr.* (military).—The late 38th Regiment of Foot, now the 1st Batt. South Staffordshire Regiment.

PUMPKIN, *subs.* (old).—1. See quot.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. "POMPKIN, a man or woman of Boston, America, from the number of POMPKINS raised and eaten by the people of that country. POMPKINS-HIVE, for Boston and its dependencies."

2. (common).—The head: see CRUMPET and TIBBY.

3. (American).—The female *pubendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE: whence PUMPKIN-COVER = the pubic hair: see FLEECE. [From the shape of a pumpkin seed.]

Verb. (venery). — 1. To deflower : hence PUNCHABLE = ripe for man, COMING (*q.v.*). — GROSE (1785).

2. (Western American). — To drive and brand cattle. Whence PUNCHER (BULL or COW-PUNCHER) = a cowboy.

1889. FRANCIS, *Saddle and Moccasin [Slang, Jargon, and Cant]*. The title 'cow-servants' so delighted the gentle PUNCHER that it has become a standing quotation in New Mexico.

1871. H. KENDALL, *Billy Vickers*. At PUNCHING oxen you may guess There's nothing out can camp him.

3. (old). — To walk : see AB-SQUATULATE. — GROSE (1785). Hence to PUNCH OUTSIDES = to go out of doors. — GROSE (1785); HAGGART (1821).

1780. TOMLINSON, *Slang Pastoral*, vii. Now she to Bridewell has PUNCH'd it along.

COBBLER'S-PUNCH, *subs. phr.* (old). — 'Urine with a cinder in it.' — GROSE (1785).

PUNCHABLE, *subs.* (old). — 'Old passable money, anno 1695.' — B. E. (*c.*1696).

See PUNCH, *verb.*, sense 1.

PUNCH-AND-JUDY, *subs. phr.* (common). — Lemonade.

1885. *Eng. Illus. Mag.*, June, 604. I'd drink a pennorth of gingeret, or a glass of PUNCH AND JUDY.

PUNCHER, *subs.* (sporting). — 1. A pugilist.

2. See PUNCH, *verb.*

PUNCH-CLOD, *subs.* (provincial). — A farm-laborer ; a clod-hopper.

PUNCH-HOUSE, *subs. phr.* (old). — 'A bawdy house.' — B. E. (*c.*1696).

PUNCHY, *subs.* (American). — A house of entertainment.

See PUNCH, *subs.*

PUNCTURE, *verb.* (cyclists'). — To deflower ; to PRICK (*q.v.*). [An allusion to pneumatic tyres.]

PUNISH, *verb.* (sporting and general). — A strong verb of action : thus (in boxing) TO PUNISH = to hit hard, to handle severely ; (in cricket) TO PUNISH THE BOWLING = to hit freely ; (general) TO PUNISH THE BOTTLE = to drink hard ; TO PUNISH THE SPREAD = to eat much and heartily ; and so forth. Hence PUNISHING = exhausting, fatiguing ; PUNISHER = a glutton for work ; PUNISHMENT = a severe beating, complete exhaustion, &c.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Crib*. An eye that plann'd PUNISHING deeds. *Ibid.* If to level, to PUNISH, to ruffian mankind.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. iii. What a PUNISHER, too !

1831. EGAN, *Finish Life in London*, 221. Blacky PUNISHED the steaks.

1848. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, liii. He PUNISHED my champagne. *Ibid.* (1862), *Philip*, iv. Tom Sayers could not take PUNISHMENT more gaily.

1857. *Barton Experiment*, xiv. After we'd PUNISHED a couple of bottles of old Crow whisky . . . he caved in all of a sudden.

1882. *Field*, 28 Jan. Each course to-day was of the most PUNISHING KIND.

1886. *D. Telegraph*, 5 Mar. Afterwards PUNISHED his opponent very scientifically.

1886. *Cassell's Saturday Journal*, 6 Mar., 359. I shall . . . PUNISH the old gentleman's sherry.

1891. *Lic. Vict. Gaz.*, 3 April. M'Carthy put in a lot of clinching to save himself from PUNISHMENT.

1889. *Sporting Times*, 3 Aug., 4, 4. If the banker deals to both sides without dealing any to himself, the PUNTERS can allow the coup to stand.

1898. *Referee*, 4 Sep., 11, 4. While Paul is PUNTING with the outside book-makers, Virginia may listen to the artless prattle of the Silver Ring.

1899. *Critic*, 11 Mar., 2, 1. A gentleman . . . whose face is familiar in the neighbourhood of Capel-court, has been PUNTING in maximums in the private club at Monte Carlo.

2. (Rugby footballers'). — To kick the ball before it touches the ground. Hence PUNT-ABOUT = a practice-ball or -game.

1856. HUGHES, *Tom Brown*, 1. v. Hurra! here's the PUNT-ABOUT — come along and try your hand at a kick.

3. (auctioneers'). — To act as decoy: also PUNTER.

1891. *Answers*, 4 Ap. When visiting a small place the auctioneer usually takes his PUNTERS with him, as the faces of local men might be known. A well-dressed PUNTER earns five or six shillings a day, and . . . are expected to appear in tall hats, gloves, sticks, big brass chains and button-holes.

PUNY, *subs.* (old). — 1. A freshman; (2) a student at the Inns of Court; (3) a junior. Hence, PUNYSHIP = youth. Also (4) = a puisne judge or benchman.

1548. PATTEN, *Somerset's March* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 520. We see the phrases *good literature* (scholarship) . . . PUNIES (juniors)].

15 [?]. *Christmas Prince at St. John's College* 1. Others to make sports . . . were they whom they call freshmenn, PUNIES of the first year.

15 [?]. *Ulysses upon Ajax*, B8. A PUNEY of Oxford.

1593. NASHE, *Christ's Teares* [GROSART, *Works*, iv. 228]. Laughing at the PUNIES they have lunched. *Ibid.* (1598), *Lenten Stuffe* [*Harl. Misc.*, vi. 171]. In the PUNIESHIP or nonage of Cerdicke Sandes.

1607. DEKKER, *Westward Hoe*, i. 2. There is only in the amity of women an estate at will, and every PUNY knows that is no certain inheritance. *Ibid.*, v. 3. The PUNIES set down this decree.

1634. MARSTON, in *Lectores*, &c. [NARES]. Each odd PUISNE of the lawyer's inne.

c. 1640. [SHIRLEY], *Capt. Underwit* [BULLEN, *Old Plays*, ii. 340]. Preach to the PUISNES of the Inne sobriety.

Adj. (old: now recognised). — Weak; small. — B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

PUP, *subs.* (colloquial). — 1. A PUPPY (*q. v.*).

2. (colloquial). — A pupil.

Verb. (colloquial). — To be brought to bed. [As a bitch with puppies.] IN PUP = pregnant.

TO SELL A PUP, *verb. phr.* (thieves'). — To swindle a greenhorn; TO FLAP A JAY (*q. v.*).

PUPE, *subs.* (Harrow school). — A pupil room.

PUPIL-MONGER, *subs. phr.* (old). — A tutor: specifically at the universities. — B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

1662. FULLER, *Worthies*, Northampton, ii. 517. John Preston . . . was the greatest PUPIL-MONGER in England.

PUPPY (PUP, or PUPPY-DOG), *subs.* (colloquial). — 1. A vain or unmannerly fool; a fop; a coxcomb. — GROSE (1785). Hence PUPPYISM = conceit or affectation; PUPPYISH (or PUPPILY) = impertinent; PUPPY-HEADED = stupid.

1593. HARVEY, *Pierce's Super.* [Wks. (GROSART), ii. 328]. A Jack-sauce, or vmannerly PUPPY.

2. (old).—A whore : *see* TART.
[Probably an echo of the hypothesis imputed to the Puritans : *cf.* sense 1, esp. quot. 1607.]

PURKO, *subs.* (military).—Beer : *see* SWIPES. [Barclay, Perkins and Co.]

PURL, *subs.* (old : now recognised).
—1. *See* quotes. 1696 and 1851 ; afterwards (2) applied to beer warmed nearly to boiling point, and flavoured with gin, sugar, and ginger. Hence PURL-MAN = a boating vendor of PURL to Thames watermen.—GROSE (1785).

1680. PERYS, *Diary*, 19 Feb. Forth to Mr. Harper's to drink a draft of PURL.

1690. DUFFY, *Collin's Walk*, iv. Or like a Porter could Regale, With Pots of PURL, or Mugs of Ale.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PURL, Wormwood infused in Ale. *Ibid.* PURL-ROYAL, Canary with a dash of Wormwood.

1711. *Spectator*, No. 88. My lord bishop swore he would throw her out at window . . . and my lord duke would have a double mug of PURL.

1790. *Old Song*, 'Flashman of St. Giles's' [*Busy Bee*]. I call'd for some PURL, and we had it hot.

1836. DICKENS, *Sketches*, 33. Watermen . . . retire . . . to solace themselves with the creature comforts of pipes and PURL.

1841. REDE, *Sixteen String Jack*, i. 2. Long Jerry's half way down a pot of PURL ; Kit's finishing a bowl of punch—.

1851. MAYHEW, *Lond. Lab.*, ii. 108. It appears to have been the practice at some time or other in this country to infuse wormwood into beer or ale previous to drinking it, either to make it sufficiently bitter, or for some medicinal purpose. This mixture was called PURL. *Ibid.* The drink originally sold on the river was PURL, or this mixture, whence the title PURL-MAN.

3. (schools').—A dive, head foremost : *cf.* sense 2.

Adj. (hunting).—Thrown ; SPILT (*q.v.*) ; FOALED (*:v.*) : *e.g.*, 'He'll get PURLED at the rails.' Hence (as *subs.*), or PURLER = a fall ; a spill.

1857. C. READE, *Never Too Late*, xxxviii. They went a tremendous pace—with occasional stoppages when a PURL occurred. *Ibid.* They commonly paddle in companies of three ; so then whenever one is PURLED the other two come on each side of him.

1868. OUIDA, *Two Flags*, iii. Right in front of that Stand was an artificial bullfinch that promised to treat most of the field to a PURLER, a deep ditch dug and filled with water, with two towering black-thorn fences on either side of it.

1885. *Field*, 26 Dec. To trifle with this innovation means a certain PURLER.

PURPOSE. TO AS MUCH PURPOSE AS THE GEESE SLUR UPON THE ICE (or AS TO GIVE A GOOSE HAY), *phr.* (colloquial).—To no purpose at all. Also 'to no more PURPOSE than to beat your heels against the ground (or wind).'
RAY (1670).

PURSE, *subs.* (venery).—1. The female *pudendum* : *see* MONOSYLLABLE ; Fr. *bourse-à-vits* : *cf.* PRICK-PURSE. Also (2) = the *scrotum*. Hence, NO MONEY IN HIS PURSE = impotent ; PURSE-PROUD = lecherous ; PURSE-FINDER = a harlot ; &c.

c.1620. BEAUMONT and FLETCHER, *Little French Lawyer*, v. 3. And put a good speed-penny in my PURSE that has been empty these thirty years.

c.1720. *Broadside Song*, 'The Turnep Ground' [FARMER, *Merry Songs and Ballads* (1897), i. 224]. [When] gently down I L'ayd her, She Op't a PURSE as black as Coal, To hold my Coin.

2. (colloquial).—A sum of money : a prize, a collection, a gift. Also (generic) = money ; resources.

1440. *Prompt. Parv.* [Camden Soc.]
... PURCV in wynd drawynge.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Hamlet*, iii. 4.
The fatness of these PURSV times.

1607. [? MIDDLETON] or W [? ENT-
WORTH] S [? MITH], *Puritan*, i. iv. I ...
by chance set upon a fat steward, thinking
his purse had been as PURSV as his body;
and the slave had about him the poor
purchase of ten groats.

18 [?]. H. LUTTRELL, *Mayfair* (1827),
ii. 16. Of tedious M.P.'s, PURSV peers,
Illustrious for their length of ears.

1820. IRVING, *Sketch-Book*, 264. A
short, PURSV man, stooping ... so as to
show nothing but the top of a round, bald
head.

d. 1832. CRABBE, *Works*, iv. 12. Sloth-
ful and PURSV, insolent and mean, Were
every bishop, prebendary, dean.

c. 1871. *The Siliad*, xiv. The PURSV
man, whose Capital's his God.

PURTING - GLUMPOT, *subs.* *phr.*
(common).—A sulker.

PUSEUM (THE), *subs.* (Oxford Uni-
versity).—The Pusey House in
St. Giles's St.

PUSH, *subs.* (old).—I. A crowd;
an assembly of any kind: *e.g.*
(thieves') = a band of thieves;
(prisons') = a gang associated in
penal labour; (general) = a knot
or party of people, at a theatre, a
church, a race-meeting, &c. Fr.,
abadie, tigne, vade, trépe. (It.,
treppo; O. Fr., *treper* = to press,
to trample).

1672. WYCHERLEY, *Love in a Wood*,
ii. 1. I will not stay THE PUSH. They
come! they come! oh, the fellows come!

1718. C. HIGGIN, *True Disc.*, 13.
He is a ... thieves' watchman, that lies
scouting ... when and where there is a
PUSH, alias an accidental crowd of people.

1754. *Disc. of John Poulter*, 30. In
order to be out of the PUSH or throng.

1819. VAUX, *Memoirs*, s.v. PUSH
... When any particular scene of crowd-
ing is alluded to, they say, the PUSH ...
at the spell doors; the PUSH at the
stooping-match.

1830. MONCRIEFF, *Heart of London*.
ii. 1. He's as quiet as a dummy hunter in
a PUSH by Houndsditch.

1852. JUDSON, *Myst. of New York*,
ii. ii. This is one ver grand PUSH.

1877. DAVITT, *Prison Diary*. Most
of these pseudo-aristocratic impostors had
succeeded in obtaining admission to the
stocking-knitting party, which, in conse-
quence, became known among the rest of
the prisoners as the "upper ten PUSH."

2. (thieves').—A robbery; a
swindle: also as in sense 1.
Thus, 'I'm in this PUSH' = 'I
mean to share'—an intimation
from one magsman to another that
he means to STAND IN (*q.v.*).

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*,
248. Tho' now-a-days So bold a PUSH
Would make an honest Hebrew blush.

3. (colloquial).—Enterprise;
energy: also PUSHERY = forward-
ness.

18 [?]. D'ARBLAY, *Diary*, iv. 45. I
actually asked for this dab of preferment;
it is the first piece of PUSHERY I ever was
guilty of.

Verb. (venery).—To copulate:
see GREENS and RIDE: also to
STAND THE PUSH; TO DO A
RANDOM PUSH; and TO PLAY AT
PUSH-PIN (PUSH-PIKE or PUT-
PIN). Whence PUSHING-SCHOOL
= a brothel: *see* NANNY-SHOP.—
B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785).

1560. RYCHARDES, *Misogonus*
[HALLIWELL]. That can lay downe
maidens bedds, And that can hold ther
sickly beds: That can play at PUT-PIN,
Blowe-poynte, and near sin.

1623. MASSINGER, *Duke of Milan*,
iii. 2. This wanton at dead midnight,
Was found at the exercise behind the arras,
With the 'foresaid signoir ... she would
never tell Who PLAYD AT PUSHPIN with
her.

1656. *Men Miracles*, 15. To see the
sonne you would admire, Goe PLAY AT
PUSH-PIN with his sire.

1707. WARD, *Hudibras Redivivus*, II. vii. 10. When at PUSH-A-PIKE WE PLAY With beauty, who shall win the day?

1750. ROBERTSON of Struan, *Poems*, 96. PUSH on, PUSH on, ye happy Pair.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 337. They star'd like honest Johnny Wade, When he one evening with the maid A game at PUSHPIN had begun, And madam came before he'd done.

COLLOQUIALISMS. — TO GET (OR GIVE) THE PUSH (OR THE ORDER OF THE PUSH) = to be discharged (or to reject), to be sent (or send) about one's business; PUT TO THE PUSH (OR AT A PUSH) = subjected to trial, in a difficulty or dilemma (B. E., c.1696); TO PUSH ONE'S BARROW = to move on; AT PUSH OF PIKE = at defiance (B. E., c.1696). See also FACE.

c.1870. *Music Hall Song*, 'I'll say no More to Mary Ann.' The girl that stole my heart has GIVEN me THE PUSH.

1886-96. MARSHALL, '*Pomes*' ['A Meeting on the "Met"'], 126. He felt like people do who GAIN THE ORDER OF THE PUSH.

1890. SIMS, *Rondeau of the Knoch* [*Referee*, 20 Ap.]. No more with jaunty air He'll HAVE THE PUSH.

1893. EMERSON, *Lippo*, xx. She was always taking on new ones, for you GOT THE PUSH in a year or two, arter you got too big.

PUSHED, *adj.* (common). — I. Drunk: see DRINKS and SCREWED.

2. (colloquial).—Hard up.

1827. *London Mag.*, xix. 39. He was frequently PUSHED for money.

PUSHER, *subs.* (old).—I. See quot.

c.1696. B. E., *Dict. Cant. Crew*, s.v. PUSHERS, Canary-birds new Flown, that cannot Feed themselves.

2. (common).—A woman: see PETTICOAT. Hence SQUARE PUSHER = a girl of good reputation.

3. (shoemakers').—A blucher boot; a high-low.

4. (nursery).—A finger of bread: used by children with a fork when feeding.

PUSHING-SCHOOL, *subs. phr.* (old).

—I. A fencing-school. — B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

PUSHING-TOUT, *subs. phr.* (old).—See quot.

1718. C. HIGGIN, *True Disc.*, 13. He is a PUSHING TOUTE, alias thieves' watchman, that lies scouting in and about the City to get and bring intelligence to the thieves, when and where there is a Push, alias an Accidental Crowd of People.

PUSH-PIN. See PUSH, *verb*.

PUSS, *subs.* (old).—I. Sometimes complacently used of a woman suspected of loose morals (cf. CAT): but usually a playful endearment: e.g., 'little PUSS,' 'saucy PUSS,' 'you PUSS, you.'

1583. STUBBES, *Anatomy of Abuses* [New Shaks. Soc.], 97. [OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 614. The word PUSSIE is now used of a woman.]

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, III. II. iii. 1. Pleasant names may be invented . . . PUSS . . . honey, love, dove.

1664. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* (1st ed.), 3. That cross-grained peevish scolding Quean, That scratching cater-wawling PUSS.

1761. COLMAN, *Jealous Wife*, II. 3. Gone! what a pox had I just run her down, and is the little PUSS stole away at last.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 101. The Rainbow-goddess flies to Helen: Most modern RUSS I ever knew.

1859. ELIOT, *Adam Bede*, ix. The LITTLE PUSS seems already to have airs enough to make a husband as miserable as it's a law of nature for a quiet man to be when he marries a beauty.

1885. F. LOCKER, *Mabel*. My jealous PUSSY cut up rough The day before I bought her muff With sable trimming.

2. (sporting).—A hare, or rabbit.

1821. SCOTT, *Kenilworth*, xxix. Thou shalt not give Puss a hint to steal away—we must catch her in her form.

1886. *Field*, 27 Feb. Dusting her hare about half a dozen times up to the fence, where PUSS escaped.

3. (venery).—The female *pu-dendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE: also PUSSY and PUSSY-CAT: Fr., *chat*; *angora*. Hence, TO FEED ONE'S PUSSY = to copulate.

1664. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie*, 107. Æneas, here's a Health to thee, To PUSSE and to good company.

4. (local Woolwich: obsolete).—A cadet of the Royal Military Academy. [The uniform was a short jacket with a pointed tail: *vide* old pictures at the R.A. Institution, Woolwich.]

PUSS-GENTLEMAN, *subs. phr.* (old).—An effeminate.

1782. COWPER, *Conv.*, 284. I cannot talk with Civet in the room, A fine PUSS-GENTLEMAN that's all perfume.

PUSSY-CAT, *subs. phr.* (clerical).—
1. A Puseyite.

2. See PUSS, *subs.*, sense 4.

PUT, *subs.* (old).—1. A rustic; a shallowpate; also COUNTRY PUT.
—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

1688. SHADWELL, *Sq. of Albatia*, l. *Belf. sen.* I always thought they had been wittiest in the Universities. *Sham.* A company of PUTTS, meer PUTTS.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversation*, ii. He's a true COUNTRY PUT.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 531. Orestes, last, a country PUT, Got such a cursed knock o' th' gut. *Ibid.*, 55. Just such a queer old PUT as you.

1782. CHAMBAUD, *Dict.*, II. 2.V.

1847. THACKERAY, *Vanity Fair*, i. xi. The captain has a hearty contempt for his father, I can see, and calls him an old PUT.

2. (old).—A harlot: see TART. [Fr. *putain*.] Hence PUTAGE = fornication. Also (3, venery) = an act of coition; intromission: also TO DO A PUT, TO HAVE A PUT-IN, TO PUT IT IN, TO PUT IN ALL, and TO PLAY AT TWO-HANDED PUT: see GREENS and RIDE.

c.1720. DURFEE, *Pills to Purge, &c.*, vi. 251. My skin is White you see, My Smock above my Knee, What would you more of me, PUT IN ALL?

1730. *Broadside Song*, 'Gee ho, Dobbin' (FARMER, *Merry Songs and Ballads* (1897), ii. 203). I rumpl'd her Feathers, and tickl'd her scutt, And PLAYED the round Rubber AT TWO HANDED PUT.

3. (Stock Exchange).—See quot. 1884: also PUT AND CALL.

1776. CIBBER, *Refusal*, i. *Gran.* And all this out of Change-Alley? *Wit.* Every shilling, Sir; all out of Stocks, PUTTS, Bulls, Rams, Bears, and Bubbles.

1884. BISBEE and SIMONDS, *Law Prod. Ex.*, 50. A PUT is an option to deliver, or not deliver, at a future day.

1889. *Rialto*, 23 Mar. Having a pocket order from the promoters, which gives him the PUT AND CALL of as many shares as he requires for his purpose.

Phrases more or less colloquial merit a mention:—TO PUT OFF (-BY or -ON) = (1) to baffle, delay, or dismiss, (2) to foist or deceive, and (3) to get rid of or sell: whence A PUT-OFF (PUT-BY or PUT-ON), *subs.* = a shift, trick, or excuse; TO PUT TO = to ask a question, advice, &c.; TO PUT DOWN = (1) to baffle or suppress,

- PIN; PIPE; POT; SIDE; SPOKE; STRONG; TIME-O'-DAY; TONGUE; WAR-PAINT; WRONG-LEG.
- PUTNEY**. GO TO PUTNEY ON A FIG, *phr.* (common).—*See* quot., and *cf.* BATH, HALIFAX, HONG KONG, JERICHO, &c.
1863. KINGSLEY, *Austin Elliot*, xv. Now, in the year 1845, telling a man to GO TO PUTNEY, was the same as telling a man to go to the deuce.
- PUTRID**, *adj.* (common).—A depreciative: *cf.* AWFUL, BLOODY, &c.
1901. *Sporting Times*, 27 April, 1, 4. All beer is PUTRID, even when it's pure.
- PUTTER**, *subs.* (old).—A foot: *see* CREEPERS.
1821. HAGGART, *Life*, 53. His ogles being darkened by the PUTTER.
- PUTTER-ON**, *subs. phr.* (old colloquial).—An instigator; a prompter.
1601. SHAKESPEARE, *Henry VIII.*, i. 2, 24. They vent reproaches Most bitterly on you, as PUTTER-ON Of these exactions. *Ibid.* (1604), *Winter's Tale*, ii. 1, 140. You are abus'd, and by some PUTTER-ON That will be damn'd for it.
- PUTTOCK**, *subs.* (old).—1. A whore: *see* TART.
- PUTTY**, *subs.* (American).—Money: generic: *see* RHINO.
1848. DURIVAGE, *Stray Subjects*, 82. 'I'll take that lot.' 'You will?' 'Yes, Mister; and yere's yer PUTTY!'
2. (common).—A glazier or painter.
- THE PUTTY AND PLASTER ON THE SOLOMON KNOB, *phr.* (masons').—An intimation that the Master is coming; 'be silent!'
- PUZZLE** (OR DIRTY-PUZZLE), *subs.* (old).—A slattern.
1583. STUBBES, *Anatomy of Abuses* [NARES]. Nor yet any droyle or PUZZEL . . . but will carry a nosegay in her hand.
1592. SHAKESPEARE, *1 Henry VI.*, i. 4. Pucelle or PUZZEL, dolphin or dog fish.
1607. STEPHANUS, *Apol. for Herod.*, 98. Some filthy queans, especially our PUZZLES of Paris.
- PUZZLE-COVE** (OR CAUSE), *subs.* (old).—A lawyer.—GROSE (1785); MATSELL (1859).
- PUZZLEDOM**, *subs.* (old colloquial).—Perplexity; bewilderment: also PUZZLEMENT. Whence, PUZZLE-HEADED and PUZZLEHEADEDNESS.
1748. RICHARDSON, *Harlowe*, vi. 367. I was resolved to travel with him unto the land of PUZZLEDOM.
1881. FREEMAN, *Venice*, 79. The wonderful interior of the double basilica opens upon us. The first feeling is simply PUZZLEDOM.
- PUZZLE - HEADED - SPOON**. *See* APOSTLE-SPOON.
- PUZZLE-TEXT**, *subs. phr.* (old).—A clergyman: *see* SKY-PILOT.—GROSE (1785).
- PUZZLING ARITHMETIC**, *subs. phr.* (old gamblers').—A statement of the odds.
1613. WEBSTER, *Devil's Law-case*, ii. 1. Studying a PUZZLING ARITHMETIC at the cockpit.
- PUZZLING-STICKS**, *subs. phr.* (old).—The triangle to which culprits were tied for flagellation.—VAUX (1819).
- PYGOSTOLE**, *subs.* (clerical).—A M.B. WAISTCOAT (*q.v.*).
1844. *Puck*, 13. It is true that the wicked make sport Of our PYGOSTOLES, as we go by.
1886. *Graphic*, 10 April, 39. The M.B. coat, otherwise known as a PYGOSTOLE.

1707. SHIRLEY, *Triumph of Wit*, 'Rum-Mort's Praise,' &c. A QUACKING CHEAT, Or tib-o'-th'-buttry was our meat.

2. See QUACKSALVER.

Verb. (old booksellers').—See quot.—BAILEY (1726).

1715. CENTLIVRE, *Gotham Election*, . . . He has an admirable knack at QUACKING titles . . . they tell me when he gets an old good-for-nothing book, he claps a new title to it, and sell off the whole impression in a week.

IN A QUACK, *phr.* (Scots').—In the shortest time possible: cf. CRACK.

QUACKLE, *verb.* (American).—To drink; to gobble; to choke: BARTLETT (1847): 'provincial in England, and colloquial in America.'

1627. REV. S. WARD, *Sermons*, 153. The drink, or something . . . QUACKLED him, stuck so in his throat so that he could not get it up nor down, but strangled him presently.

1837. CARLYLE, *Fr. Revolution*, II. I. 1. Simple ducks in those royal waters QUACKLE for crumbs from young royal fingers.

QUACKSALVER (QUACKSALVE or QUACK), *subs.* (old: now recognised).—Originally a charlatan; a travelling empiric who cackled about his salves: shortened by Wycherley to QUACK, which now = any noisy, specious cheat. Also as *adj.* and *verb.*—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785). Whence QUACKERY = professional humbug.

1579. GOSSON, *School of Abuse* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 604. He has the substantive QUACKSALVER].

1596. JONSON, *Ev. Man in Humour*, iii. 2. All mere gulleries . . . I could say what I know . . . but I profess myself no QUACKSALVER.

1608. MIDDLETON, *Mad World*, ii. 6. Tut, man, any QUACK-SALVING terms will serve for this purpose.

1625. MASSINGER, *Parl. of Love*, iv. 5. What should a QUACKSALVE, A fellow that does deal in drugs . . . do with so fair a bedfellow.

1672. WYCHERLEY, *Love in a Wood*, iii. QUACKS in their Bills . . . do not disappoint us more than gallants with their Promises.

QUAD, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A quadrangle. Hence as *verb.* (Rugby) = to promenade Cloisters at 'calling over' before a football-match. Also QUOD (*q.v.*).

1840. *Collegians' Guide*, 144. His mother . . . had been seen crossing the QUAD in tears.

1855. TROLLOPE, *Warden*, v. The QUAD, as it was familiarly called, was a small quadrangle.

1884. *Daily News*, 14 Oct., 5, 1. His undignified nickname is carved in the turf of the college QUAD.

2. See QUOD, *subs.* and *verb.*

3. (common).—A horse; a 'quadruped.'

1885. *Eng. Ill. Mag.*, April, 509. The second rider . . . got his gallant QUAD over, and . . . went round the course alone.

4. (cyclists').—A bicycle for four.

QUÆDAM, *subs.* (old).—A harlot: see TART.

1692. HACKET, *Life of Williams*, ii. 128. A seraglio of Quædams.

QUÆ-GEMES, *subs. phr.* (old).—A bastard: cf. *Johnny Quæ-Genus*, a character title.

QUAFF, *verb.* (old: once and still literary in the weakened sense 2).—1. To carouse (B. E., c.1696): also to QUAFF OFF; and (2) to drink with gusto. QUAFFTIDE (STANYHURST) = the time of drinking.

QUAG, *subs.* (old).—Marsh-land; a quagmire.—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

1882. *Daily Telegraph*, 30 Dec., 6, 1. Gangways and quarter-decks bristling with guns and lower portholes rendered formidable to the eye by those sham wooden pieces called QUAKERS, because they were never fought.

STEWED-QUAKER, *subs. phr.* (American colloquial).—A remedy for colds: composed of vinegar and molasses (or honey), mixed with butter and drunk hot.

QUAKER CITY, *subs. phr.* (American).—Philadelphia. [William Penn, its founder, belonged to the Society of Friends.]

QUAKER'S BARGAIN, *subs. phr.* (old).—A bargain 'Yea' or 'Nay'; a 'take-it-or-leave-it' transaction.

1697. VANBRUGH, *Prov. Wife*, ii. *Lady F.* At what rate would this . . . be brought off? . . . *Heart.* Why, madam, to drive a QUAKER'S BARGAIN, and make but one word with you, if, &c.

QUAKING-CHEAT, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. A calf; and (2) a sheep.—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

QUALIFY, *verb.* (venery).—To copulate: see GREENS and RIDE.

QUALITY (THE), *subs.* (once literary, now colloquial or vulgar).—The gentry; the UPPER TEN (*q.v.*): cf. 'the dignity' applied (PATTEN, 1548) to nobles in the army. Whence QUALITY-AIR = a distinguished carriage.

1599. SHAKESPEARE, *Henry V.*, iv., 8, 94. The rest are princes, barons, lords, knights, squires, and gentlemen of blood and QUALITY.

1700. CENTLIVE, *Perjured Husband*, iii., ii. 'Tis an insufferable fault, that QUALITY can have no pleasure above the vulgar, except it be in not paying their debts.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* (ROUTLEDGE), 106. They have themselves QUALITY AIRS.

1857. A. TROLLOPE, *Barchester Towers*, xxxv. THE QUALITY, as the upper classes in rural districts are designated by the lower with so much true discrimination, were to eat a breakfast, and the NON-QUALITY were to eat a dinner.

QUALM, *subs.* (old: once, and still, literary).—'A stomach-fit; also calmness.' Also QUALMISH = 'crop-sick, queasy stomacht.'—B. E. (c.1696).

QUANDARY, *subs.* (colloquial).—A difficulty or doubt; 'a low word' (JOHNSON, 1755). Also as *verb.* = to hesitate; to puzzle.—GROSE (1785). [See quot. 1563.]

c.1440. *Relig. Pieces* [E. E. T. S.], 11. The sexte vertue es strengthe . . . cunly to suffire the wele and the waa, welthe or WANDRETH.

1563. FOXE, *Acts and Monuments* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.* i. 540. The *h* is prefixed; the old *wandretre* (turbatio) becomes QUANDARY].

1590. GREENE, *Never Too Late* [*Wks.* viii, 84]. Thus in a QUANDARIE, he sate.

d.1655. REV. T. ADAMS, *Works*. i. 505. He QUANDARIES whether to go forward to God, or . . . to turn back to the world.

1681. OTWAY, *Soldier's Fortune*, iii. I am QUANDARY'D like one going with a party to discover the enemy's camp, but had lost his guide upon the mountains.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, liv. Throw persons of honour into such QUANDARIES as might endanger their lives.

1874. MRS. H. WOOD, *Johnny Ludlow*, 1 S., No. XXIII., 424. Sam Rimmer sat looking at her as if in a QUANDARY, gently rubbing his hair, that shone again in the sun.

QUANTUM, *subs.* (common).—As much as you want or ought to have: spec. a drink; a GO (*q.v.*). Whence QUANTUM SUFF = enough.

QUAT, *subs.* (old).—A dwarfish person: also (occasionally) a SHABSTER (*q. v.*).

1602. SHAKSPEARE, *Othello*, v. 1. I have rubbed this young QUAT almost to the sense, And he grows angry.

1609. DEKKER, *Civil's Horn Book*, vii. Whether he be a young QUAT of the first year's revennew, or some austere and sullen-faced steward.

1613. WEBSTER, *Devil's Law Case*. O young QUAT! incontinence is plagued in all creatures in the world.

Verb. (common).—To ease the bowels: also TO GO TO QUAT.

QUATCH, *adj.* (old).—Flat.

1598. SHAKSPEARE, *All's Well*, ii. 2, 18. Like a barber's chair that fits all buttocks; the pin-buttock, the QUATCH-buttock, . . . or any buttock.

QUATRO, *adj.* (showmen's).—Four. [From the It.]

QUAVER, *subs.* (common).—A musician.

QUAVERY-WAVERY, *adj.* and *adv.* (old: dialectical).—Undecided.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* (ROUTLEDGE), 338. Standing . . . QUAVERY-WAVERY between life and death.

QUAY, *adj.* (American thieves').—Unsafe; untrustworthy.

QUEAN (or **QUEEN**), *subs.*—1. Primarily a woman: without regard to character or position. Hence (2) = a slut, HUSSY (*q. v.*), or strumpet: TO PLAY THE QUEAN = to play the whore.—B. E. (c.1696); BAILEY (1725); GROSE (1785). Whence QUEANRY = (1) womankind; (2) harlotry; and (3) the estate of whoredom.

1362. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman*, ix. 46. At church in the charnel cheorles aren yuel to knowe, Other a knyght fro a knaue other a QUEYNE fro a QUEENE.

1383. CHAUCER, *Manciple's Tale*, Prol. 18. Hastow with som QUENE at nyght yswonke.

[7] SCOTT, *Chron. S. P.*, iii. 148. Qubair hurdome ay unhappis With QUEENRY, cannis and coppis.

1591. HARRINGTON, *Ariost.*, xixv. 26. Penelope was but a QUEANE.

1593. NASHE, *Christ's Teares* [GROSART, *Works* (18.), iv. 224]. Every QUEANE vaunts herselfe of some or other man of Nobility.

1596. SHAKSPEARE, *Merry Wives*, iv. 2. A witch, a QUEAN, an old cozening QUEAN.

1596. JONSON, *Ed. Man in Humour*, iv. 8. Kib. A bitter QUEAN! Come, we will have you tamed. *Ibid.* (1601), *Postaster*, iv. 3. She's a curst QUEAN, tell him, and plays the scold behind his back.

. . . . WATKYNs in HEYWARDS *Quint.*, l. 143 [NARES]. If once the virgin conscience PLAYS THE QUEAN, We seldom after care to keep it clean.

1611. MIDDLETON, *Rearing Girl*, ii. 1. There are more QUEANS in this town of their own making than of any man's provoking.

c.1613. FLETCHER, *Nice Valour*, ii. 1 [DYCE, x. 316]. A man can in his lifetime make but one woman, But he may make his fifty QUEANS a month.

1614. *Times Whistle* [E. E. T. S.], 45. Flavia because her meanes are somewhat scant, Doth sell her body to relieve her want, Yet scornes to be reputed as a QUEAN.

1621. BURTON, *Anat. Melan.*, I. ii. iv. 6. A base QUEAN. *Ibid.*, III. ii. l. 2. Rahab, that harlot began to be a professed QUEAN at ten years of age. *Ibid.*, III. ii. l. 1. They are commonly lascivious, and if women, QUEANS. *Ibid.*, III. ii. l. 5. I perceived . . . by the naked QUEANS, that I was come into a bawdy-house.

1634. FORD, *Perkin Warbeck*, ii. 3. I never was ambitious Of using congoes to my daughter-queen—A queen! perhaps a QUEAN!

1731. COFFEY, *Devil to Pay*, i. 2. Where are my sluts? Ye drabs, ye QUEANS—lights there!

1777. SHERIDAN, *School for Scandal*, iii. 3. Here's to the flaunting extravagant QUEAN.

Dudman and Ramehead meet; when the world grows honest; when the Yellow River runs clear; on the 31st June (or some other impossible date); once in a blue moon; when two Sundays come in a week; when the devil is blind (or blind drunk); at Doomsday; one of these odd-come-shortlys; when my goose pisses; when the ducks have eaten up the dirt; when pigs fly; on St. Geoffrey's day (GROSE).

FRENCH SYNONYMS. — *Dans une semaine de trois ou quatre jeudis; Mardi s'il fait chaud* (obsolete); *Dimanche après la grande messe; quand les poules pisseront.*

1691-2. *Gentlemen's Journal*, Feb., 25. And then from QUEEN DICK got a patent On Charlton Green to set up a tent.

1864. *Standard*, 13 Dec. A bus driver in altercation with his conductor, who threatened him with paying off soon, replied, Oh yes, IN THE REIGN OF QUEEN DICK.

QUEEN ELIZABETH. 1. See QUEEN ANNE.

2. (thieves'). — The street-door key: see BETTY.

QUEEN ELIZABETH'S POCKET-PISTOL, *subs. phr.* (old). — 'A brass cannon of a prodigious length at Dover Castle.' — B. E. (c. 1696).

1751. SMOLLETT, *Per. Pickle*, xxxiv. The company walked up hill to visit the castle, . . . where they saw QUEEN ELIZABETH'S POCKET-PISTOL.

QUEENITE, *subs.* (obsolete). — A partizan of Queen Caroline. [The consort of George IV.] Cf. KINGITE.

1824. SOUTHEY, *The Doctor*, Interch., xvi. He thought small beer at that time of some very great patriots and QUEENITES.

QUEEN - OF - HOLES, *subs. phr.* (venery). — The female *pudendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

d. 1680. ROCHESTER, *On the Charms of Hidden Treasure* [Works (1718), i. 91]. Thou mighty Princess, lovely QUEEN OF HOLES, Whose monarchy the bravest man controls.

QUEEN - OF - THE - DRIPPING PAN, *subs. phr.* (common). — A cook.

QUEEN'S (or KING'S) ALE, *subs. phr.* (old). — The strongest ale brewed.

1574. *Burgh Rec. Glasgow* (1876), i. 25. That thair be na derare aill sauld nor sax penneies the pynt, and that the samyn be KINGIS AILL and verraye guid.

QUEEN'S BAD-BARGAIN (or SHILLING). — See Q. H. B.

QUEEN'S BAYS (THE), *subs. phr.* (military). — The Third Dragoon Guards, now "The Bays." [The Corps were (c. 1767) mounted on bay horses; the other heavy regiments (except the Scots Greys) having black.]

QUEEN'S BUS, *subs. phr.* (thieves'). — A prison van: BLACK MARIA (q.v.); also HER MAJESTY'S CARRIAGE.

QUEEN'S (or KING'S) CARRIAGE (or CUSHION), *subs. phr.* (common). — An improvised seat: made by two persons crossing and clasping hands, the rider holding both bearers round the neck; as BANDY-CHAIR (q.v.)

1818. SCOTT, *Heart of Midlothian*, vii. He was now mounted on the hands of two of the rioters, clasped together, so as to form what is called . . . THE KING'S CUSHION.

QUEEN'S COLLEGE. — See COLLEGE.

QUEEN'S (or KING'S) ENGLISH, *subs. phr.* (colloquial). — The English language correctly written or spoken.

1592. NASH, *Strange Newes*. [GROSART, *Works*, ii. 184]. He must be running on the letter, and abusing the QUEENES ENGLISH without pittie or mercie.

c.1604. SHAKESPEARE, *Merry Wives* (played c.1600), i. 4, 6. Abusing of God's patience and the KING's ENGLISH.

1836. E. HOWARD, *R. Rafter*, xxxv. They . . . put THE KING's ENGLISH to death so charmingly.

1869. ALFORD, *Plea for the QUEEN's ENGLISH* [Title].

1886. OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 212. King Henry V. comes before us, and we may now fairly begin to talk of KING's ENGLISH.

QUEEN'S (or KING'S) HEAD, *subs. phr.* (common). — A postage-stamp.

1842. MONCRIEFF, *Scamps of London*, i. 2. On that occasion you sent me a QUEEN's HEAD, politely inviting me . . . to . . . advance you a few hundreds on your personal security.

QUEEN'S-HERB, *subs. phr.* (old). — Snuff.

QUEEN'S (or KING'S) PICTURE (or PORTRAIT), *subs. phr.* (old). — 1. Money : generic : *see* RHINO. Also (2—spec.) = a sovereign ; 20/- : hence TO DRAW THE QUEEN'S (or KING'S) PICTURE (or PORTRAIT) = to coin money. — B. E. (c.1696) ; GROSE (1785).

1632. BROME, *The Court Beggar* [Works (1873), i. 258], v. 2. This picture drawer drew it, and has drawn more of THE KING's PICTURES than all the limners in the town.

1706. WARD, *Hudibras Redivivus*, l. vii. 26. In short, QUEEN's PICTURES, by their features, Charm all degrees of human creatures.

1845. DISRAELI, *Sybil*, iii. i. I have been making a pound a-week these two months past, but, as I'm a sinner saved, I have never seen THE young QUEEN's PICTURE yet.

1858. MAYHEW, *Paved with Gold*, iii. iii. 265. 'I've brought a couple of bene coves, with lots of THE QUEEN's PICTURES in their sacks.'

1887. JUDY, 27 April, 202. While we had the QUEEN's PORTRAIT in our pockets we were well received everywhere.

QUEEN'S (or KING'S) PIPE. — *See* PIPE.

QUEEN'S-STICK, *subs. phr.* (common). — A stately person.

QUEEN STREET. TO LIVE IN QUEEN STREET (OR AT THE SIGN OF THE QUEEN'S HEAD), *verb. phr.* (old). — To be under PETTICOAT-GOVERNMENT (*q.v.*). — GROSE (1785).

QUEEN'S-WOMAN, *subs. phr.* (military). — A soldier's trull : *see* TART.

1871. *Royal Commission on Cont. Dis. Act*. [Report]. Some of them are called QUEEN'S WOMEN, and consider themselves a privileged class, and exhibit the printed order to attend the periodical examination as a certificate of health.

QUEER (QUIRE or QUYER), *subs.* and *adj.* (Old Cant : now in some senses colloquial or accepted). — A generic depreciative : criminal, base, counterfeit, odd (B. E., c.1696, and GROSE, 1785) : *cf.* RUM. Later usages are (1) = out of sorts or SEEDY (*q.v.*) from drink, sickness, or accident ; (2) unfavourable or unpropitious ; and (3) strange or CRANKY (*q.v.*) : whence also QUEERS (*subs.*), QUERRED, and QUEERY. Thus (old) QUEER-BAIL = fraudulent bail, STRAW-BAIL (*q.v.*) ; QUEER-BIRD = a jail-bird, a convict ; QUEER-BITCH = 'an odd, out-of-the-way fellow' (GROSE) ;

QUEER-BIT (-COLE, -MONEY, -PAPER, -SCREENS, -SOFT, or QUEER) = base money, coin or notes (whence QUEER-SHOVER; TO SHOVE THE QUEER = to pass counterfeit money; and QUEER-BIT MAKER = a coiner); QUEER-BLUFFER = a cut-throat innkeeper; QUEER-BOOZE = poor lap, SWIPES (*q.v.*); QUEER-BUNG = an empty purse; QUEER-CHECKER = a swindling box-keeper; QUEER-CARD (FELLOW, or FISH) = a person strange in manner or views (also, in *pl.* = QUEER-CATTLE); QUEER-CLOUT = a handkerchief not worth stealing; QUEER-COLE-MAKER = a coiner; QUEER-COLE-FENCER = a receiver (or utterer) of base coin; QUEER-COVE-BIRD, -CULL, or -GILL = (1) a rogue, thief, or gaol-bird, (2) a fop, (3) a fool, and (4) a shabbily-dressed person; QUEER-CUFFIN = (1) a magistrate, a BEAK (*q.v.*), and (2) a churl; QUEER-DEGEN = a poor sword; QUEER-DIVER = a bungling pick-pocket; QUEER-DOXY = (1) a jilting jade, and (2) an ill-dressed whore; QUEER-DRAWERS = old or coarse stockings; QUEER-DUKE = (1) a decayed gentleman, and (2) a starveling; QUEER-'EM (QUEER-'UN or QUEER-'UM) = the gallows; QUEER-FUN = a bungled trick; QUEER-KEN (or QUEER-KEN-HALL) = (1) a prison; and (2) a house not worth robbing; QUEER-KICKS = tattered breeches; QUEER-MORT = a dirty drab, a jilting wench, a pocky whore; QUEER-NAB = a shabby hat; QUEER-PEEPER = (1) a mirror of poor quality, and (2), in *pl.* = squinting eyes; QUEER-PLUNGER = a cheat working the drowning man and rescue dodge; QUEER-PRANCER = (1) a

foundered whore, and (2) an old screw; QUEER-ROOSTER = a police spy living among thieves; QUEER-TOPPING = a frowsy wig; QUEER-WEDGE = base gold; QUEER-WHIDDING = a scolding; QUEER-GAMMED = crippled; TO QUEER = to spoil, to get the better of; TO BE QUEERED = to be drunk; TO TIP THE QUEER = to pass sentence; TO BE QUEER TO (or ON) = (1) to rob; (2) to treat harshly; IN QUEER STREET = (1) in a difficulty, (2) = wrong, and (3) = hard-up. — AWDELEY (1560); HARMAN (1567); ROWLANDS (1610); HEAD (1665); B. E. (*c.* 1696); COLES (1724); BAILEY (1726); PARKER (1781); GROSE (1785); VAUX (1812); BEE (1823).

1560. AWDELEY, *Fraternities of Vacabondes*, 4. A QUIRE BIRD is one that came lately out of prison, and goeth to seeke service.

1567. HARMAN, *Caveat*, 85. It is QUVER BOUSE (it is small and naughtye drynke).

1592. GREENE, *Quip* [GROSART, *Works* (18..) xl. 283]. You can lift or nip a bounce like a QUIRE COUE, if you want pence.

1608. DEKKER, *Lanthorne and Candlelight* [GROSART, *Works* (188), iii. 203]. To the QUIER CUFFING we bing. *Ibid.* 196. In canting they terme a justice of peace, because he punisheth them belike (by no other name than by QUIER CUFFIN, that is to say, a Churle, or a naughty man). *Ibid.* Then to the QUIER KEN, to scour the Cramp-ring.

1610. ROWLANDS, *Martin Mark-all*. 'Towre out ben Morta.' And the QUIRE COVES tippe the lowre. *Ibid.* But if we be spid we shall be clyd, And carried to the QUIRKEN HALL.

1622. FLETCHER, *Begger's Bush*. We the CUFFINS QUERE defy.

1707. SHIRLEY, *Triumph of Wit* [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 35]. Duds and Cheats thou oft has won, Yet the CUFFIN QUIRE couldst shun.

1894. MOORE, *Esther Waters*, xli. It was not his habit to notice domestic differences of opinion, especially those in which women had a share—QUEER CATTLE that he knew nothing about.

1898. *Pink 'Um and Pelican*, 240. He hardly ever uttered the spurious coins himself . . . and, consequently, seldom had any QUEER about his person.

2. (old).—See quot.

1818. EGAN, *Boxiana*, II. 423 [Note]. QUEER, a term made use of by the dealers in soot, signifying a substitute imposed for the original article, inferior in point of value, 4d. per bushel.

3. (common).—A QUIZ (*q.v.*); a look; a hoax: also QUEER-QUISH. As *verb.* = (1) to ridicule, and (2) to distinguish or divine, TO SPOT (*q.v.*); QUEERER = a QUIZZER (*q.v.*).

c.1790. *Old Song*, 'Flash Man of St. Giles's' [*Busy Bee* . . .] And QUEER'D the flats at thrums, E, O.

1814. COLMAN, *Poetical Vagaries*, 144. A shoulder-knotted puppy, with a grin, QUEERING the thread-bare curate, let him in. *Ibid.* 150. These wooden wits, these quizzers, QUEERERS, smokers.

1818. SCOTT, *Midlothian*, xxvi. "Wha is he, Jeanie?—wha is he?—I haena heard his name yet—Come now, Jeanie, ye are but QUEERING us."

1823. BYRON, *Don Juan*, xi. 19. Who in a row like Tom could lead the van, Booze in the ken, or at the spell ken hustle? Who QUEER a flat?

1844. *Puck*, 13. I'm as happy o'er my beer as anyone that's here, And if need comes can QUEER a bargee again.

1857. *Punch*, 31 Jan., 49. 'Dear Bill, This Stone-Jug.' In the day-rooms the cuffs we QUEER at our ease.

1892. HENLEY and STEVENSON, *Deacon Brodie*, v. 15. Have a QUEER at her phiz. *Ibid.* Tab. II. 2. Let's have another QUEER at the list.

2. (old).—Cute; knowing; FLY (*q.v.*).

1789. PARKER, *Sandman's Wedding*, 'Air', II. For he's the kiddy rum and QUEER.

Verb. (common). — 1. See subs. 3.

2. (common).—To spoil; to outwit; to perplex. Hence TO QUEER A PITCH (cheap jacks and showmen) = to spoil a chance of business; TO QUEER THE NOOSE OR STIFLER = to cheat the hangman; TO QUEER FATE = to get the better of the inevitable; TO QUEER THE OGLES = to blacken the eyes.—GROSE (1785); VAUX (1819).

1818. SCOTT, *Midlothian*, xxiii. I think Handie Dandie and I may QUEER THE STIFLER for all that is come and gone. *Ibid.* If the b— QUEERS THE NOOSE, that silly cull will marry her.

1819. *Old Song*, 'Young Prig' [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 83]. There no QUEERING fate, sirs.

1836. MILNER, *Turpin's Ride to York*, I. 2. I can QUEER these brither blades of the road.

1843. MONCRIEFF, *Scamps of London*, II. 3. I'll QUEER them yet.

1875. FROST, *Circus Life*, 278. Any interruption of their feats, such as an accident, or the interference of a policeman, is said to QUEER THE FITCH.

1886. *Referee*, 21 Feb. Endeavours made to QUEER a rival's or an antagonist's FITCH. *Ibid.* (1889), 26 May. Why should not our non-professors' little game be QUEERED?

1891. *Morning Advertiser*, 27 Mar. His FITCH being QUEERED he marched to another point, but here he found the police in possession.

1900. *Free Lance*, 6 Oct., 20, 2. That's the third show she's QUEERED this season. I believe she'd sink a ship.

QUEER (FINE, ODD, OR TIGHT) AS DICK'S (or NICK'S) HATBAND, *phr.* (old).—Out of order or sorts, not knowing why: also AS QUEER AS DICK'S HATBAND THAT WENT NINE TIMES ROUND AND WOULDN'T MEET.—GROSE (1785).

1748. DYCKE, *Dict.*, s.v. QUID, so much tobacco as a person can take between his thumb and two fore-fingers, when cut small, in order to put into his mouth to chew.

1771. SMOLLETT, *Humphry Clinker*, 57. A large roll of tobacco was presented by way of dessert, and every individual took a comfortable QUID.

1836. MICHAEL SCOTT, *Cruise of Midge*, 103. Wait until your wound gets better. Surely you have not a QUID in your cheek now?

1880. *Daily Telegraph*, 1 Jan. A deleterious custom—that of chewing QUIDS.

3. (venery).—The female *pu-dendum*: see MONOSYLLABLE.

Verb. (American).—To puzzle; to embarrass.

See QUIP.

QUIDNUNC, *subs.* (colloquial).—(1) A person curious, or professing, to know everything. [Latin = 'What now?']. Hence (2) a politician. [Popularised by a character in Murphy's *Upholsterer* (1758).]

1709. STEELE, *Tatler*, No. 10. "The insignificance of my manners to the rest of the world, makes the laughers call me a QUIDNUNC, a phrase which I neither understand, nor shall never enquire what they mean by it."

1729. POPE, *Dunciad*, i. 270. This the great Mother dearest held than all The clubs of QUIDNUNCS, or her own Guildhall.

1818. MOORE, *Fudge Family*, pt. 81. Or QUIDNUNCS, on Sunday, just fresh from the barber's Enjoying their news.

1886. *Athenaeum*, 6 Nov. 595, 1. What the masses believed . . . and what the QUIDNUNCS of London repeated, may here be found.

QUID PRO QUO, *phr.* (colloquial).—A tit for tat; a ROWLAND FOR AN OLIVER (*q.v.*): an equivalent. Also QUID FOR QUOD. Cf. QUIP.

1565. CALPHILL, *Answ. to Martiell* [Parker Soc.]. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.* i. 571. Among the Romance words are . . . QUID PRO QUO, Tom Fool . . .]

1592. SHAKESPEARE, *1 Hen. IV.* v. 3. I cry for mercy, 'tis but QUID FOR QUO.

1608. MIDDLETON, *Mad World*, ii. Let him trap me in gold, and I'll lap him in lead; QUID PRO QUO.

1611. CHAPMAN, *May-day*, i. 2. Women of themselves . . . would return QUID FOR QUOD still, but we are they that spoil 'em.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 262. Unless she lets her conscience go, And gives the knave a QUID PRO QUO.

1820. COMBE, *Syntax*, ii. iii. I shall be able With all fair reasoning to bestow What you will find a QUID PRO QUO.

1890. GRANT ALLEN, *Tents of Shem*, x. A QUID PRO QUO, his friend suggested jocosely, emphasising the QUID with a facetious stress.

QUIEN, *subs.* (common).—A dog.

1861. READE, *Cloister and Hearth* iv. 'Curse these quiens,' said he.

QUIER. See QUEER, *passim*.

QUIET. ON THE QUIET. See Q. T.

AS QUIET AS A WASP IN ONE'S NOSE, *phr.* (colloquial).—Uneasy; restless.—RAY (1670).

QUIETUS (or QUIETUS EST), *subs.* (colloquial).—A form of finality; a settling blow; death, &c.: originally = a quittance or pardon.

c. 1537. LATIMER, *Remains* [Parker Soc.], 309. [You will] have your QUIETUS EST.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet*, iii. 1. "Who would fardels bear . . . When he himself might his QUIETUS make With a bare bodkin?"

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 317. Nestor's in danger, stop and meet us, Or Hector gives him his QUIETUS.

1891. *Lic. Vic. Gaz.*, 3 Ap. After a contest which lasted for the best part of an hour and a-half, M'Carthy received his QUIETUS.

1899. BESANT, *Orange Girl*, 25. An overwhelming disgust fell upon my soul as I thought of the . . . long hours . . . DRIVING THE QUILL all the day.

QUILL-PIPES. See QUAIL-PIPE BOOTS.

QUILLET. See QUIBBLE.

QUILT, *subs.* (old).—A fat man.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *1 Hen. IV.*, iv. 2, 53. How now, Bloun Jack? How now, QUILT.

THE QUILT, *subs. phr.* (American).—The Union Jack: *cf.* RAG.

Verb. (common).—To beat; TO TAN (*g.v.*): hence QUILTING = a rope's-ending.—GROSE (1785).

1821. EGAN, *Real Life*, i. 351. They were a set of cowardly rascals, and deserved QUILTING.

d. 1828. RANDALL'S *Diary*, 'To Martin.' Turn to and QUILT the Nonparel.

1840. COCKTON, *Valentine Vox*, xii. "Bless his little soul, he shall have a QUILTING yet."

QUILTING, *subs.* (obsolete American).—A patchworking-party with a spree at the end: *see* BEE.

1825. NEAL, *Bro. Jonathan*, i. 7. 'Where is Edith?' said he, at last. 'Gone to a QUILTIN.'

1842. MAJ. JONES' *Courtship*, viii. My time is tuck up with so many things . . . goin to QUILTENS and partys of one kind another.

1847. HOBBS, *Squatter Life*, 94. As sharp as lightnin', and as persuadin' as a young gal at a QUILTIN'.

QUIM (QUEME, QUIMSBY, QUIMBOX, or QUIN), *subs.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: *see* MONOSYLLABLE. Hence QUIM-STAKE (or WEDGE) = the *penis*: *see* PRICK; QUIM-STICKER = a whoremonger; *see* MUTTON-MONGER; QUIM-STICKING (QUIMMING, or QUIM-WEDGING) =

copulation: *see* GREENS; QUIM-BUSH (-WIG, or -WHISKERS) = the pubic hair: *see* FLEECE.—GROSE (1785).

1612. *Old Play in Rawl. MS.* (Bodleian), 'Tumult' [HALLIWELL]. "I tell you, Hodge, in sooth it was not cleane, it was as black as ever was Malkin's QUEME."

c. 1707. *Broadside Ballad*, 'The Harlot Unmask'd' (FARMER, *Merry Songs and Ballads* (1897), iv. 111). Tho' her Hands they are red, and her Bubbies are coarse, Her QUIM, for all that, may be never the worse. *Ibid.* On her QUIM and herself she depends for support.

1847. HALLIWELL, *Archaic . . . Words*, s.v. QUEME . . . (3) the same as the old word queint, which, as I am informed by a correspondent at Newcastle, is still used in the North of England by the colliers and common people.

QUINSEY. See HEMPEN-SQUINCEY.

QUIP, *subs.* (old colloquial).—1. A play upon words; a jesting or evasive reply; a retort; and (2) a trifling critic.—B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1787). Also as *verb.* = (1) to trifle; to jest; to censure; and (2) to criticise. Variants more or less allied in meaning and usage are conveniently grouped: *e.g.*, QUIB, QUILL, QUIBBLE, QUIDDLE, QUIBLET (also, mod. Amer.: the patter between turns in negro minstrelsy), QUIDLET, QUILLET, QUIBLIN, and QUIDLIN; SIR QUIBBLE QUEERE (QUIBBLER, QUIPPER, or QUIDDLER) = a trifier or SHATTER-BRAIN (*g.v.*); QUIBBLING (or QUIDDLING) = uncertain, unsteady, or mincing (of gait); QUIDDIFICAL = triflingly.

1420. ANDREW OF WYNTOUN, *Chronicle* (LAING (1872) . . .). [OLIPHANT, *New English*, i. 229. There is the Celtic word QUHYPE (QUIP = a quick turn or flirt.

1571. EDWARDS, *Damon & Pythias* [DODDSLEY (Old Plays, 1744), i. 279]. Set up your buffing base, and we will QUIDDLE upon it.

QUI-TAM, *subs. phr.* (old).—See quot. 1864. Hence **QUI-TAM HORSE** = 'one that will both carry and draw' (GROSE, 1785).

1782. PARKER, *Humorous Sketches*, 189. A lawyer [speaks of] John Doe and Richard Roe, terms, vacations, QUITAMS, processes and executions.

1843. MONCRIEFF, *Scamps of London*, ii. 2. The QUITAM LAWYER, the quack doctor.

1864. HOTTEN, *Slang Dict.*, s.v. **QUI-TAM**, a solicitor. He who, *i.e.*, "he who, as much for himself as for the King," seeks a conviction, the penalty for which goes half to the informer and half to the Crown. The term would, therefore, with greater propriety, be applied to a spy than to a solicitor.

QUIUS-KIUS, *intj.* (theatrical).—A warning to silence.

QUIVER, *subs.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: see **MONOSYLLABLE**.

c.1600-20. *Old Ballad*, 'A Man's Yard' [FARMER, *Merry Songs and Ballads* (1897), i. 11]. And every wench, by her owne will, Would keep [it] in her QUIVER still.

QUIZ (or **QUOZ**), *subs.* (colloquial).

—1. A puzzle; a jest; a hoax: also QUIZZIFICATION; (2) a jesting or perplexing critic; also QUIZZER; and (3) any odd-looking person or thing. As *verb.* = to banter; to puzzle; to confound. Hence QUIZZICAL (or QUIZZICALLY) = jocose or humorous; TO QUIZZIFY = to make ridiculous.—GROSE (1785); BEE (1823).

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 147. Women of light character . . . play the comedy of love in many masks, . . . as they fall in with the QUIZ, the coxcomb, or the bully.

1797. D'ARBLAY, *Diary*, vi. 128. I cannot suffer you to make such a QUIZ of yourself. *Ibid.*, vi. 187. These and his spout of satire are mere QUIZZINESS. *Ibid.*, *Camilla* (1796), vii. ix. What does the old quoiz mean?

1797. COLMAN, *Heir at Law*, iv. 3. *Dick*. What a damn'd gig you look like. *Pangloss*. A gig! Umph; that's an Eton phrase—the Westminster call it QUIZ.

1803. C. K. SHARPE [Correspondence (1888), i. 17]. Billy Bamboozle, a QUIZZER and wit.

1803. EDGEWORTH, *Belinda*, ix. You have taken a fancy to the old QUIZZICAL fellow. *Ibid.*, xi. After all, my dear, the whole may be a QUIZZIFICATION of Sir Philip's.

1815. SCOTT, *Guy Mannering*, iii. What were then called bites and bams, since denominated hoaxes and QUIZZES.

1818. AUSTEN, *Northanger Abbey*, 33. Where did you get that QUIZ of a hat? it makes you look like an old witch.

1830. POOLE, *Turning the Tables*, 1. I'll QUIZ his heart out.

1840. LYTTON, *Paul Clifford*, vi. Stab my vitals, but you are a comical QUIZ.

1855. THACKERAY, *Newcomes*, lix. The landlord of the "King's Arms" looked knowing and QUIZZICAL. *Ibid.*, lxii. I don't think it's kind of you to QUIZ my boy for doing his duty to his Queen and to his father too, sir.

1856. C. BRONTE, *Professor*, iii. He was not odd—no QUIZ—yet he resembled no one else I had ever seen before.

1837. CARLYLE, *Diamond Necklace*, xvi. How many fugitive leaves QUIZZICAL, imaginative, or at least mendacious, were flying about in newspapers.

1902. HENLEY [HAZLITT, *Works*, i. xxi.]. And dead is Burke, and Fox is dead, and Byron, most QUIZZICAL of lords.

2. (American students').—A weekly oral examination: also spec., notes made and passed on to another: hence QUIZ-class, SURGERY-QUIZ, LEGAL-QUIZ, &c.; QUIZ-MASTER = a tutor or COACH (*q.v.*). Also as *verb.* = (1) to attend, and (2) to conduct such a class.

3. (general).—A monocular eye-glass: also QUIZZING-GLASS.

1843. THACKERAY, *Irish Sketch Book*, xxiv. The dandy not uncommonly finishes off with a horn QUIZZING-GLASS.



See THREE R'S.

RABBIT, *subs.* (old).

—1. A term of contempt: hence RABBIT-SUCKER (*i.e.*, a sucking rabbit) = an innocent fool; 'Young Unthrifths taking up Goods upon Tick at excessive Rates.'—B. E. (*c.*1696); GROSE (1785). Cf. POET-SUCKER.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *1 Henry IV.*, ii. 4. Hang me up by the heels for a RABBIT-SUCKER. *Ibid.*, *2 Hen. IV.*, ii. 2. Away you whoreson, upright RABBIT, away!

1609. DEKKER, *Lanthorne and Candlelight* (GROSART, *Wks.* (1886), iii. 233). This hearbe being chewd downe by the RABBIT-SUCKERS almost kills their hearts, and is worse to them than nabbing on the neckes to Connies.

2. (old).—A wooden drinking can: also RABIT.—B. E. (*c.*1696); GROSE (1785).

1697. *Praise of Yorkshire Ale*, 1. Strong beer in RABITS and cheating penny cans, Three pipes for two-pence and such like trepans.

3. (American).—A rowdy: also DEAD-RABBIT and DEAD-DUCK. [A gang of roughs paraded New York in 1848, carrying dead rabbits and ducks as emblems of victory.]

4. (political).—See quot.

1866. *House of Commons Election Commission* (Report). Out of £50 . . . he had paid a number of rooks and RABBITS. . . . In general it was stated

that "the RABBITS were to work in the burrow and the rooks to make a noise at the public meetings."

5. (racing).—See quot. and IN AND OUT.

1882. *Standard*, 3 Sep. Milan, though somewhat of a RABBIT, as a horse that runs 'in and out' is sometimes called.

6. (old).—A new-born babe. Whence RABBIT-CATCHER = a midwife.—GROSE (1785).

Verb. (old).—Usually as *inty.* = Confound it! Also ODSRABBIT! and DRABBIT! Cf. DRAT = God rot it! [OD, 'd = God + RABBIT = rot it!]

1742. FIELDING, *Joseph Andrews*. 'RABBIT the fellow!' cries he.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Roa. Random*, xviii. RABBIT IT! I have forgot the degree.

LIVE RABBIT, *subs. phr.* (venerary).—The *penis*: see PRICK: also RABBIT-PIE = a whore: see TART. Whence TO SKIN THE LIVE RABBIT (or HAVE A BIT OF RABBIT-PIE) = to copulate: see GREENS and RIDE.

PHRASES.—TO BUY THE RABBIT = to get the worst of a bargain; FAT AND LEAN, LIKE A RABBIT (see quot. 1708-10); TO GO RABBIT-HUNTING WITH A DEAD FERRET = to undertake a business with improper or useless means (RAY, 1760): also see WELSH-RABBIT.

1843. CARLYLE, *Past and Present*, II. i. A blustering, dissipated human figure . . . tearing out the bowels of St. Edmundsbury Convent . . . in the most ruinous way by LIVING AT RACK AND MANGER there.

RACKABIMUS, *subs.* (Scots').—*See* quot.

1808. JAMIESON, *Dict.* s.v. RACKABIMUS. A sudden or unexpected stroke or fall; a cant term . . . It resembles RACKET.

RACKABONES (OR RACK-OF-BONES), *subs.* (American).—A skinny person or animal; a BAG OF BONES (*q.v.*); a SHAPE (*q.v.*).

1862. *New York Tribune*, 13 June. He is a little afraid that this mettlesome charger cannot be trusted going down hill; otherwise he would let go of the old RACKABONES that hobbles behind.

RACKET, *subs.* (old).—1. A confusion, sportive or the reverse: whence (2) generic for disorder, clamour or noisy merriment (B. E., c.1696); also (3) any matter or happening (GROSE, 1785); also = a general verb of action. Thus, to RACKET ABOUT (ROUND, THROUGH, &c.) = to go the rounds at night; TO GO ON THE RACKET = to SPREE (*q.v.*); TO RAISE A RACKET = to make a disturbance; 'WHAT'S THE RACKET?' = 'What's going on?'; TO BE IN A RACKET = to be part in a design; TO WORK THE RACKET = to carry on a matter (*see* quots. 1785 and 1851, and *cf.* RIG, LAY, &c.: whence RACKET-MAN [thieves'] = a thief); TO STAND THE RACKET = (1) to pay a score, and (2) to take the consequences; WITHOUT RACKET = without a murmur; TO TUMBLE TO THE RACKET = (1) to understand, TO TWIG (*q.v.*), and (2) *see* quot. 1890; RACKETY (OR RACKETTY)

= (1) noisy, and (2) dissipated; RACKETER (OR RACKAPELT) = a whoremonger or SPREESTER (*q.v.*).

1565. PARKER, *Correspondence* (Parker Soc.), 234. I send you a letter sent to me of the RACKET stirred up by Withers, of whom ye were informed, for the reformation of the university windows.

1598. SHAKESPEARE, *2 Hen. IV.* ii. 2. That the tennis-court keeper knows better than I; for it is a low ebb of linen with thee when thou KEEPEST NOT RACKET there.

1609. JONSON, *Case is Altered*, iv. 4. Then think, then speak, then drink their sound again, AND RACKET ROUND about this body's court.

1678. COTTON, *Virgil Travestie* [*Works* (1725) 100]. And leads me such a fearful RACKET.

1698. *Unnatural Mother* [NARES]. Yonder has been a most heavy RACKET . . . there is a curious hansom gentlewoman lies as dead as a herring, and bleeds like any stuck pig.

c.1707. *Old Ballad*, 'The Long Vacation' [DURFEE, *Pills* (1707), iii. 65]. We made such a noise, And confounded a RACKET; My Landlady knew, I'd been searching the PLACKET.

1751. SMOLLETT, *Pickle*, ii. Goblins that . . . keep such a RACKET in his house, that you would think . . . all the devils in hell had broke loose upon him.

1753. RICHARDSON, *Grandison*, I. 117. I shall be a RACKETER, I doubt.

1767. STERNE, *Tristram Shandy*, II. 6. Pray, what's all that RACKET over our heads.

1772. BRIDGES, *Homer Burl*, 281. Without the least demur or RACKET.

1785. GROSE, *Vulg. Tongue*, s.v. RACKET. Some particular kinds of fraud and robbery are so termed, when called by their flash names . . . as the Letter-RACKET; the Order-RACKET . . . on the fancy of the speaker. In fact, any game may be termed a RACKET . . . by prefixing thereto the particular branch of depredation or fraud in question.

1789. PARKER, *Life's Painter*, 'Happy Pair.' And STOOD THE RACKET for a dram.

1809. BYRON, *Lines to Mr. Hodgson*. Then I'd 'scape the heat and RACKET Of the good ship, Lisbon Packet.

c.1861-5. *Maj. Downing's Letters*, 93. We have killed Calhoun and Biddle; but there is a RAFT of fellows to put down yet.

1886. *Phil. Times*, 24 Oct. This last spring a RAFT of them [serving girls] was out of employment.

RAG, *subs.* (old).—Generic: (1) in *pl.* = clothes, old or new; whence (2), in *sing.* = a tatterdemalion, a ragamuffin, anyone despicable and despised; and (3) anything made out of textile stuff (as a handkerchief, shirt, undergrad's gown, newspaper, and exercise- [or examination-] paper). Hence TAG- (or SHAG-) RAG-AND-BOBTAIL (or FAG END) = one and all, the common people (GROSE, 1785); TAG-RAG = tattered, villainous, poor, disreputable; RAG-MANNERED = violently vulgar; RAGGERY = duds, esp. women's: *Fr. chiffons*; RAG-BAG (or RAG-DOLL) = a slattern; RAG-TRADE = (1) tailoring, (2) dressmaking, and (3) the dry-goods trade in general; RAG-STABBER = a tailor, a SNIP (*q.v.*); RAG-TACKER = (1) a dressmaker, and (2) a coach-trimmer; RAG-SOOKER (or SEEKER) = *see* quot. 1878; RAGS-AND-JAGS = tatters; TO HAVE TWO SHIRTS AND A RAG = to be comfortably off (RAY, 1760); TO TIP ONE'S RAGS A GALLOP = to move, depart, get out; TO GET ONE'S RAG (or SHIRT) OUT = (1) to bluster, and (2) to get angry; TO RAG OUT = (1) to dress, to CLOBBER UP (*q.v.*); and (2) to show the WHITE RAG: *see* WHITE FEATHER.

1535. BYGOD [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 487. Bygod has 'your fathers were wyse, both TAGGE AND RAG'; that is *one and all*].

1542. UDALL, *Apoph. Eras.* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, i. 484. Phrases like . . . not a RAG to hang about him . . .]

1582. STANVHURST, *Æneis* [ARRER], 21. Thee northen bluster aproching Thee sayls tears TAG RAG.

1597. SHAKSPEARE, *Richard III.*, v. 3. These overweening RAGS of France. *Ibid.* (1610), *Coriolanus*, iii. 4. Will you hence Before the TAG return.

1597. HEYWOOD, *Timon* [Five Plays in One, p. 10]. I am not of the RAGGS or FAGG END of the people.

1623. JENSON, *Time Vindicated*. The other zealous RAGG is the compositor.

1659-60. PEPYS, *Diary*, 6 Mar. The dining-room was full of TAG-RAG-AND-BOBTAIL, dancing, singing, and drinking.

1698. COLLIER, *Eng. Stage*, 220. This young lady swears, talks smut, and is . . . just as RAG-MANNERED as Mary the Buksome.

16 [?]. *Nursery Rhyme*. Hark, hark! the dogs do bark, The Beggars come to town, Some in RAGS, and some in JAGS, And some in velvet gowns.

1706. WARD, *Wooden World*, 73. While he has a RAG to his Arse, he scorns to make use of a Napkin.

1708-10. SWIFT, *Polite Conversation*, i. *Lady Answ.* Pray, is he not rich? *Ld. Sparkish*. Ay, a rich Rogue, Two SHIRTS AND A RAG.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* [ROUTLEDGE], 166. A sorry RAG of a cassock. *Ibid.*, 173. A band of robbers . . . left us not a RAG but what we carry on our backs.

1785. WOLCOT [*Works* (1812), i. 80]. TAGRAGS AND BOBTAILS of the sacred Brush.

1800. COLQUHOUN, *Comm. Thames*, ii. 75. That lowest class of the community who are vulgarly denominated THE TAG-RAG AND BOBTAIL.

1811. MOORE, *Tom Crib*, 27. One of Georgy's bright ogles was put On the bankruptcy list, with its shop-windows shut; While the other soon made quite as TAG-RAG a show.

c.1819. *Old Song*, 'The Young Prig' [FARMER, *Musa Pedestris* (1896), 82. Frisk the cly, and fork the RAG.

1820. BYRON, *Blues*, ii. 23. The RAG, TAG AND BOBTAIL of those they call 'Blues.'

1840. DICKENS, *Barn. Rudge*, xxxv. We don't take in no TAGRAG AND BOBTAIL at our house.

c.1879. *North Am. Rev.* [Century]. Fortunately the 'specie basis' of the national banks is now chiefly paper—the RAG-BABY—three hundred and forty-six millions of greenbacks.

5. (service). — A flag: spec. the Union, but also the regimental colours. Hence RAG-CARRIER = an ensign (GROSE).

186[?]. WHITMAN [in *Century*, xxxvi. 827]. It cost three men's lives to get back that four-by-three flag—to tear it from the breast of a dead rebel—for the name of getting their little RAG back again.

c.1870. *Music Hall Song*, 'John Bull's Flag.' In India Nana Sahib flew, when Campbell showed the flag, At Trafalgar, too, when Nelson fell, he died before THE RAG.

1892. KIPLING, *Barrack - Room Ballads*, 'The Rhyme of the Three Captains.' Dip their flag to a slaver's RAG—to show that his trade is fair. *Ibid.*, 'The Widow at Windsor.' You won't get away from the tune that they play To the bloomin' old RAG over 'ead.

1901. HENLEY, *For England's Sake*, 'The Man in the Street.' And if it's the RAG of RAGS that calls us roaring into the fight, We'll die in a glory.

6. (actors' and showmen's). — (1) The curtain; whence (2) a *dénouement*, i.e., a "curtain" = a situation on which to bring down the drop; RAGS-AND-STICKS = a travelling outfit: see *quots. passim*.

1875. *Athenaeum*, 24 April, 545, 2. RAGS is another uncomplimentary term applied by prosperous members of circuses to the street tumblers.

1876. HINDLEY, *Cheap Jack*, 99. Sawney Williams . . . was horrified at finding his RAGS AND STICKS, as a theatrical booth is always termed, just as he had left them the overnight.

1886. *Referee*, 20 June. Poor Miss A— was left for quite a minute before the RAG could be unhitched and made to shut out the tragic situation.

1897. MARSHALL, 'Pomes,' 44. Which brought down the RAG on no end of a mess.

7. (military). — THE ORDER OF THE RAG = the profession of arms; RAG-FAIR = kit inspection (GROSE). See RAG-AND-FAMISH.

1751. FIELDING, *Amelia*, II. iv. It is the opinion which, I believe, most of you young GENTLEMEN OF THE ORDER OF THE RAG deserve.

8. (common). — The tongue: also RED-RAG, or RED-FLANNEL (B. E., c.1696; DYCHE, 1748; GROSE, 1785); (9) = talk, banter, abuse. As *verb.* = (1) to scold; (2) to chaff; and (3—American University) to declaim or compose better than one's class-mates: see RAGTIME. Whence RAG-BOX (or -SHOP) = the mouth; RAG-SAUCE = (1) chatter, and (2) CHEEK (*q.v.*); RAGSTER = a bully or scold; A DISH OF RED-RAG = abuse; TO CHEW THE RAG = (1) to scold, and (2) to sulk; TO GIVE THE RED RAG A HOLIDAY = to be silent; TOO MUCH RED RAG = loquacious.

1820. COMBE, *Syntax, Consolations*, IV. For well I know by your glib tongue, To what fine country you belong, And if your RED RAG did not show it, By your queer fancies I should know it.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. iv. 'Hang you! . . . if you don't hold that are RED RAG of yours, I'll spoil your mouth.' *Ibid. Anec. of Turf*, 183. She tipped the party such a DISH OF RED RAG as almost to create a riot in the street. *Ibid.* (1842), *Jack Flashman* [in Captain Macheath]. Here's the RAG-SAUCE of a friend.

1826. BRUTON, *My Mugging Maia* [Univ. Songst. iii. 103]. Say, mugging Moll, why that RED-RAG . . . is now so mute.

1876. W. S. GILBERT, *Dan'l Druce*, I. Stop that cursed RED RAG of yours, will you?

1882. ANSTEV, *Vice-Versa*, xiv. "You're right there, sir," said Dick; "he ought to be well RAGGED for it."

RAG-AND-FAMISH (or **THE RAG**), *subs. phr.* (military).—The Army and Navy Club.

1864. YATES, *Broken to Harness*, iv. From the Doctor's I went to **THE RAG** and found Meaburn there.

1864. SALA, *Quite Alone*, xiii. **THE RAG AND FAMISH** seems to me a most palatial edifice, superb in all its exterior appointments.

1877. *Punch's Pocket-Book* (1878), 173. There's a Major I know who belongs to the **RAG**.

1887. LOVETT-CAMERON, *Neck or Nothing*, i. The very smartest and best-looking man to be met with between **THE RAG** and Hyde Park Corner.

1890. *D. Telegraph*, 19 Aug., 5, 2. The genial "RAG" welcomes the sympathetic spirits of the Naval and Military with open arms.

RAG-BABY, *subs. phr.* (American).—The policy advocated by Greenbackers; inflation of the currency as a panacea for financial ills.—BARTLETT.

RAGE, *verb.* (old : colloquial).—To wanton : hence **RAGERIE** = wantonness; skittishness : *cf.* **RAG**, *subs.* 10.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, 'Miller's Tale,' l. 87. On a day this hende Nicholas Fil with this yonge wyf to **RAGE** and playe. *Ibid.*, 'Merchant's Tale,' l. 603. He was al Coltishsh, ful of **RAGERIE**.

1393. GOWER, *Confess. Aman.* i. She began to plaie and **RAGE**, As who saith, I am well enough.

c.1440. *Reliq. Antig.*, i. 29. When sche seyth gallantys revell yn hall, Yn here bert she thinkys owtrage, Desyrynge with them to play and **RAGE**, And stelyth fro yow full prevely.

THE RAGE (or **ALL THE RAGE**), *phr.* (colloquial).—The fashion; the vogue; **THE GO** (*q.v.*).

1785. *The New Rosciad*, 37. 'Tis **THE RAGE** in this great raging Nation, Who wou'd live and not be in the fashion?

1857. A. TROLLOPE, *Three Clerks*, xxv. You don't know how charming it is, and it will be **ALL THE RAGE**.

1868. SPENCER, *Social Statics* 178. In our day **THE RAGE** for accumulation has apotheosized work.

1885. *Daily Chronicle*, 16 Sep. Criticism was **ALL THE RAGE**.

RAG-FAIR, *subs. phr.* (old).—1. *See* quot. 1892; and (2) *see* **RAG**, *subs.* 7.

1748. SMOLLETT, *Rod. Random*, xxvii. Mr. Morgan's wife kept a gin-shop in **RAG-FAIR**.

1772. BRIDGES, *Homer Burlesque*, 205. One kept a slop-shop in **RAG FAIR**.

1892. SYDNEY, *English and the English in 18th Century*, i. 32. Situated in the parish of St. Mary, Whitechapel, near the Tower of London, was the district called **RAG FAIR**, where old clothes and frippery were sold.

RAGGED-ARSE, *adj. phr.* (vulgar).—Disreputable; tattered; spoiled. **RAGGED-ARSE BRIGADE** = the baser sort; **TAG-RAG-AND-BOB-TAIL**; 'Tom Dick, and Harry.' **RAGGED-ARSE REPUTATION** (or **VIRTUE**) = one gone to tatters.

RAGGED, *adj.* (rowing).—Collapsed.

RAGGED-BRIGADE, *subs. phr.* (military).—Thirteenth Hussars. Also "The Green Dragons"; "The Evergreens"; and "The Great Runaway Prestonpans."

RAGGED-SOPH. *See* **SOPH**.

RAGGED ROBIN, *subs. phr.* (provincial).—A keeper's follower (New Forest).

RAGMAN (or **RAGEMAN**), *subs.* (old).—The devil. Also (2) *see* **RIG-MAROLE**.

1363. LANGLAND, *Piers Plowman*, xix. 122. Filius by the faders wil fleggh with Spiritus Sanctus, To ransake that **RAGEMAN** and reue hym bus apples, That fyrst man deceyuede thorgh fruit and false by-hest.

3. (costers'). — A sovereign; HALF-A-RAINBOW = ten shillings: see RHINO.

RAINBOW-CHASE, *subs. phr.* (common). — A run after a dream; a WILD-GOOSE CHASE (*q.v.*). [From the folk-story of the pot of gold found where the two points of a rainbow touch the earth.]

1886. *St. James's Gaz.*, 2 June, 10. A fact which had led Mr. Rylands off a RAINBOW-CHASE after a visionary Chancellorship.

RAIN-NAPPER, *subs. phr.* (old). — An umbrella; a MUSH (*q.v.*).

1822. MONCRIEFF, *Tom and Jerry*, iii. 4. My hat and RAIN-NAPPER there!

RAINY- (or WET-) DAY, *subs. phr.* (common). — Hard times; whence, TO LAY UP FOR A RAINY-DAY = to provide against necessity or distress. — GROSE (1785).

d. 1626. *Andrews Sermons* [Ang. Cath. Lib. (1841-3), ii. 346]. This they caught as an advantage we see, and laid it up for a RAINY DAY, and three years after, out they came with it.

1662. FULLER, *Worthies*, xi. *Ergo*, saith the Miser, part with nothing, but keep all against a WET DAY.

1836. EVERETT, *Orations*, I. 285 The man whose honest industry just gives him a competence exerts himself that he may have something against a RAINY DAY

1885. *Evening Standard*, 23 Oct. They must in prosperous times put by something for a RAINY DAY.

RAISE, *subs.* (colloquial). — An improvement in conditions.

1848. RUXTON, *Far West*, 19. If we don't make a RAISE afore long, I wouldn't say so.

1886. *Phil. Times*, 6 Ap. No further difficulty is anticipated in making permanent the RAISE of the freight blockade in this city.

Verb. (old: now American colloquial). — To rear: of human beings, crops and cattle.

1597. SHAKESPEARE, *Richard III.*, v. 3, 247. A bloody tyrant and a homicide; One RAISED in blood.

1744. MATH. BISHOP [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 164. A child is RAISED (bred up) . . . this is still an American phrase].

1768. FRANKLIN, *Letter to J. Alleyne*, 9 Aug. By these early marriages we are blest with more children; and . . . every mother suckling and nursing her own child, more of them are RAISED.

1851. ALLIN, *Home Ballads*, 22. Rhody has RAISED the biggest man, Connecticut, Tom Thumb.

1869. STOWE, *Oldtown Folks*, 98. Miss Asphyxia had talked of takin' a child from the poor-house, and so RAISIN' her own help.

1887. LIPPINCOTT'S, August, 398. I was born and RAISED 'way down in the little village of Unity, Maine.

1890. *Literary World*, 31 Jan., 102, 2. She was RAISED in a good family as a nurse and seamstress.

See BEAD; BILL; BOBBERY; BRISTLES; CAIN; DANDER; DASH; DEAD; DEVIL; HAIR; HATCHET; HELL; MARKET; MISCHIEF; MUSS; NED; ORGAN; RACKET; ROOF; ROW; RUMPUS; WIND.

RAISE-MOUNTAIN, *subs. phr.* (old). — A braggart.

RAKE (RAKEHELL, RAKEHILL, RAKEHILL, or RAKESHAME), *subs.* (old: now recognised). — A disreputable person; a blackguard, esp. a whoremonger; 'one so bad as to be found only by raking hell, or one so reckless as to rake hell' (*Century*): also 'RAKE HELL and skin the devil, and you'll not find such another.' — HARMAN (1573); COTGRAVE (1611, s.v. *garment*); B. E. (c. 1696); GROSE (1785). Also, as *verb.*

(RAY) 'more apt to pull in and scrape up, than to give out and communicate : also vice versa' ;
LEAN AS A RAKE = as lean as may be.

1383. CHAUCER, *Cant. Tales*, Prol., 289. AS LENE was his hors AS is A RAKE.

d. 1520. SKELTON, *Phyllis Sparowe*, 913. His bones crake, LEANE AS A RAKE.

1582. STANYHURST, *Aeneis* [ARBER], 89. A meigre LEANE RAKE with a long berd.

1611. COTGRAVE, *Dict.*, s.v. *Maigre*. Maigre comme pies, AS LEANE AS RAKES (we say).

1614. *Terence in English* [NARES]. C. Woe is me for you, CARRIE YOU SUCH HEAVIE RAKES, I pray you? M. Such is my desert.

c. 1732. GAY, *Works* (1784), II. 115. LEAN AS A RAKE with sighs and care.

RAKER (OR RAKE-KENNEL), subs. (old).—A scavenger : also JACK RAKER.

1611. TARLETON, *Jests*. When the cart came, he asked the RAKER why he did his businesse so slacklye.

c. 1704. *Gentleman Instructed*, 445. A club of RAKE-KENNELS.

TO GO A RAKER, *verb phr.* (racing).—To bet recklessly ; TO PLUNGE (*q.v.*). Hence, RAKER = a heavy bet.

1884. HAWLEY SMART, *Post to Finish*, I. If Bill Greyson takes the Leger it will be with Caterham. I am standing him a RAKER, and I mean standing him out.

1891. *Sportsman*, 25 Mar. Jennings, whose usual betting limit is very moderate, indeed, stood to win a RAKER this time over Lord George.

RALLY, subs. (theatrical).—The rough-and-tumble work after the transformation scene in a pantomime.

1880. SIMS, *Left*, 168. Then, when the company found out the trick, the waiters, who were all supers, started a RALLY, and threw the things at each other.

1885. *D. Telegraph*, 16 Nov. Provide comic actors, pantomimes, RALLIES, and breakdowns.

RALPH, subs. (American).—I. A fool : also RALPH SPOONER.—B. E. (c. 1696) ; GROSE (1785).

2. (printers').—A mischief-mongering *deus ex machina* : the supposed author of the tricks played on a recalcitrant member of a CHAPEL (*q.v.*).

RAM, subs. (American University).—I. A practical joke ; a hoax.

2. (venery).—An act of coition : hence, as *verb.* = to possess a woman : *cf.* RAMROD and *see* RIDE.

THE RAMS, *subs. phr.* (American).—*Delirium tremens* : *see* GALLON-DISTEMPER.

TO RAM ONE'S FACE IN, *verb. phr.* (American).—To intrude ; to meddle.

RAMAGIOUS, adj. (old).—'Untamed, wild.'—COLES (1717).

RAM-BOOZE (OR -BUZE). *See* RUM.

RAMBOUNGE, subs. (Scots').—'A severe brush of labour . . . most probably a cant term.'—JAMIESON.

RAMBUSTIOUS, RAMBUNCTIOUS, RAMBUNCTIOUS, RAMGUMPTION, RAMFEEZLED, RAMSHACKLE, RAMSTRUGENOUS, and similar words. *See* RUMGUMPTION.

RAMCAT (OR RAN-CAT COVE), subs. phr. (thieves').—A man wearing furs.

1605. SHAKESPEARE, *Cymbeline*, i. 6. Should he make me Live like Diana's priest, betwixt cold sheets; Whiles he is vaulting variable RAMPS, In your despite.

1614. JONSON, *Bartholomew Fair*, iv. 3. Peace, you foul RAMPING jade!

1697. *Poor Robin*. To duel RAMPANT Miss on a soft Bed.

1732. FIELDING, *Miser*, iv. 15. The young fellows of this age are so RAMPANT that even degrees of kindred cannot restrain them.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* (ROUTLEDGE), 69. A charming woman . . . open to all mankind . . . Let me see how many RAMPANT chaps have been brought to their bearings . . . without the . . . husband being waked out of his evening nap.

3. (thieves').—A robbery with violence (VAUX, 1812); (4) = a swindle; whence (5) = a footpad; and (6) = a trickster: also RAMPSMAN and RAMPER: cf. RUSH. As *verb.* = (1) to rob with violence; (2) to blackmail; and (3, racing) to bet against one's own horse; RAMPING (*adj.*) = violent; RAMPING-MAD = noisily drunk; TO RAMP AND REAVE = to get by fair means or foul (HALLIWELL).

1830. MONCRIEFF, *Heart of London*, ii. 1. And RAMP so plummy.

1840. LYTTON, *Paul Clifford*, viii. The latter personage, giving him a pinch in the ear, shouted out "RAMP, RAMP!" and Paul found himself surrounded in a trice by a whole host of ingenious tormentors . . . this initiatory process, technically termed "RAMPING," reduced the bones of Paul, who fought tooth and nail in his defence, to the state of magnesia.

1859. MATSELL, *Vocabulum*. It is their business to jostle or RAMP the victim, while the file picks his pocket.

1876. RUNCIMAN, *Chequers*, 7. A man who is a racecourse thief and RAMPER hailed me affably.

1880. G. R. SIMS, *How the Poor Live*, x. These . . . were mostly RAMPS, or swindles, got up to obtain the gate-money.

1883. *Punch*, 26 May, 252, 1. "Look 'ere, this hinnocent cove has been trying a RAMP on!" "Crowd. Welsher! kill him! Welsher!"

1885. *Chamb. Journal*, 28 Feb., 136. He is a RAMPER and bully to a couple of outside betting-men.

1889. KIPLING, *Cleared* [in *The Scots Observer*]. They never told the RAMPING crowd to card a woman's hide.

7. (thieves').—A hall-mark. [A 'rampant lion' forms part of the essay stamp for gold and silver.]

1879. HORSLEY, *Jottings from Jail* [*Macm.* xl. 500]. They told me all about the wedge, how I should know it by the RAMP.

RAMPAGE, *verb.* (colloquial).—To storm; also ON THE RAMPAGE = (1) in a state of excitement, from anger, lust, violent movement, or drink. Whence RAMPAGING (RAMPACIOUS or RAMPAGEOUS) = (1) furious, HOT (*q.v.*), wild, or outrageous; and (2) LOUD (*q.v.*): whence RAMPAGEOUSNESS. Also RAMPAGER (or RAMPADGEON) = (1) a Hector; (2) a vagabond; and (3) a wench.

1722. HAMILTON, *Wallace*, 244. Psewart RAMPAG'D to see both man and horse So sore rebuted, and put to the worse.

1768. ROSS, *Helensore*, 64. He RAMPAGED . . . And lap and danc'd, and was in unco' mood.

1816. SCOTT, *Antiquary*, v. The young gentleman was sometimes heard . . . RAMPAGING about in his room, just as if he was one o' the player folk.

1823. GALT, *R. Gilhaise*, i. 40. His present master was a saint of purity compared to that RAMPACIOUS Cardinal.

1837. DICKENS, *Pickwick*, xxii. A stone statue of some RAMPACIOUS animal . . . distinctly resembling an insane cart-horse.

1858. DICKENS, *Great Expectations*, xv. Joe . . . followed me out into the road to say . . . ON THE RAMPAGE, Pip, and OFF THE RAMPAGE, Pip—such is Life.

1860. TENNYSON, *Village Wife*, vii. An' they RAMPAGED about wi' their groom's, and was 'untin' arter the men.

RANGE, *verb.* (old ventry).—To whore; to GROUSE (*q.v.*).—B. E. (c.1696). Whence **RANGER** = (1) a whoremonger; and (2) the penis (*see* PRICK): *cf.* the school-boy rhyme—'Ye bitch of brass, hold up your arse Till I get in my **RANGER**.

RANGER, *subs.* (old).—I. A highwayman.

2. (old).—In pl. = mounted troops using short arms: *cf.* Connaught **RANGERS** (late 88th and 94th Regiments).

3. *See* **RANGE**, *verb.*

RANK, *adj.* (old colloquial).—I. A generic intensive: unmitigated; utter (B. E., c.1696; GROSE, 1785; VAUX, 1819): *e.g.*, A **RANK LIE** = a flat falsehood; A **RANK KNAVE** = a rogue of the first water; A **RANK OUTSIDER** (*see* **OUTSIDER**); A **RANK SWELL** = a pink of fashion; A **RANK DUFFER** = a downright fool; and so forth.

1465-70. MALLORY, *Morte d'Arthur* [E. E. T. S.] i.2402. The **RENKE** rebelle has been un-to my round Table, Redy aye with Romaynes!

d.1547. SURREY, *Ænoid*, ii. Whose sacred filletes all besprinkled were With filth of gory blod, and venim **RANK**.

1596. SHAKESPEARE, *Hamlet*, iii, 4.

148. **RANK** corruption, mining all within, Infects unseen.

c.1616. FLETCHER, *Bonduca*, iv. 2. Run, run, ye rogues, ye preclous rogues, ye **RANK** rogues.

d.1719. ADDISON, *Man of the Town*. What are these but **RANK** pedants.

1834. AINSWORTH, *Rookwood*, iii. v. "A **RANK** scamp!" cried the upright man; and this exclamation, however equivocal it may sound, was intended to be highly complimentary.

1894. MOORE, *Esther Waters*, xxx. I saw that the favourites had been winning. But I know of something, a **RANK** outsider, for the Leger.

2. (American). — Eager; anxious; impatient [*Century*]: *e.g.* 'I was **RANK** to get back.'

Verb. (common).—To cheat.

RANK-AND-RICHES, *subs. phr.* (rhyming).—Breeches = trousers.

1887. SIMS, *Tottie* [*Referee*, 7 Nov.]. And right through my **RANK-AND-RICHES** Did my cribbage-pegs assail.

RANKER, *subs.* (military).—An officer risen from the ranks: *cf.* **GENTLEMAN-RANKER**.

1878. BESANT and RICE, *By Celia's Arbour*, xxxii. Every regiment has its **RANKERS**; every **RANKER** his story. I should be a snob if I were ashamed of having risen.

1886. *St. James's Gaz.*, 2 June, 12. The new Coast battalion, most of whose officers are **RANKERS**.

RANK-RIDER, *subs. phr.* (old).—I. A highwayman; and (2) a jockey. *See* **RIDE**, *verb.* Whence **RANK-RIDING** = rough-riding.—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

1612. DRAYTON, *Polyolbion*, iii. 28. And on his match as much the Western horseman lays As the **RANK-RIDING** Scots upon their Galloways.

RANNACK (or **RANNIGAL**), *subs.* (old).—A good-for-nothing.

RANNEL, *subs.* (old Cant).—A whore: *see* **TART**.

1600. GAB. HARVEY, *Pierces Superer*. Although she were a lusty rampe . . . yet she was not such a roinish **RANNEL**, such a dissolute Gillian-flirt.

RANSACK, *verb.* (old).—To GROPE (*q.v.*); to deflower; 'to explore point by point.'—B. E. (c.1696).

1485. MALLORY, *Morte d'Arthur*, x. civ. And anone he **RANSACKED** him.

17(?) P. KIRKDEN, *Stats. Ac.*, ii. 515. Many RANDIES infest this country from the neighbouring towns and the Highlands.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 57. Juno and he have had their quantum, And PLAY no more AT RANTUM-SCANTUM.

b.1796. BURNS, *Jolly Beggars*. Ae night, at e'en, a merry cove O' RANDIE gangrel bodies. *Ibid.* Wi' quaffing and laughing, They RANTED and they sang. *Ibid.*, To James Tennant. Yours, Saint or Sinner, Rob the RANTER.

1815. SCOTT, *Guy Mannering*, iii. 304. I was the mad RANDY gypsy, that had been scourged, and banished and branded. *Ibid.* (1816), *Black Dwarf*, ii. I hae a good conscience, unless it beabout a RANT among the lasses, or a splore at a fair.

1822. *Steamboat*, 179. 'You are one of the protectors of innocence, I can see that!' cried a RANDY-LIKE woman.

183(?) CARLYLE [FROUDE, *Life in London*, xviii.]. That scandalous RANDY of a girl.

c.1852. *Traits of Amer. Humour*, 49. He was the darndest, RANTANKEROUS bossy that ever clum a tree.

1871. *Figaro*, 15 Ap. We put him down near Sloane Square—There was a RANTERS' chapel there.

1885. *Punch*, 27 June, 302. The Oracle, he Talks RANTIPOLE rubbish and fiddle-de-dee!

1887. STEVENSON, *John Nicolson*, vii. [*Yule Tide*, 9]. John had been (as he was pleased to call it) visibly ON THE RANDAN the night before.

2. (streets').—See quot.

1887. *Walford's Antiquarian*, Ap. 253. To RANT is to appropriate anything in a forcible manner. 'Lets go and RANT their marleys,' says one urchin to another, and straightway the pair annex the possessions of a more respectable party. But it is also used to denote undue freedom with females, and springs, no doubt, from RANTIPOLE.

RAP, *subs.* and *verb.* (old).—Quick, forcible, explosive action: generic: e.g. (1) a blow; 'a Polt on the pate, and a hard knocking at a Door' (B. E., c.1696); (2) a FART (*q.v.*); (3) an oath or ex-

clamation (also RAPPER); and (4) a severe reprimand: as a RAP ON (or OVER) THE FINGERS, KNUCKLES, &c. Hence, as *verb.* = (1) to strike smartly or to speak forcibly (espec. to reprimand): usually with OFF or OUT; (2) to break wind; (3) to swear; (4) to perjure oneself: to deal a blow at one's honor or another's reputation (GROSE, 1785). Also ON THE RAP = on the SPREE (*q.v.*); IN A RAP = in a moment; RAPFULLY = violently; RAPPED = (1) ruined; (2) knocked out of time; and (3) killed.

1512-3. DOUGLAS, *Virgil*, 74, 13. The broken skyis RAPPIS furth thunderis leuin.

d.1549. [BORDE], *Mylnar of Abington* [HAZLITT, *Early Pop. Poet.*, iii. 115]. His wife lent him suche a RAPPE, That stil on grounde he laie.

c.1553. UDALL, *Roister Doister*, iv. iii. To speede we are not like, Except ye RAPPE OUT a ragge of your Rhetorique.

d.1577. GASCOIGNE [CHALMERS, *Whs.*, ii. 486, 'In Praise of Lady Sandes']. He . . . sodainly with mighty mace gan RAP hir on the pate.

1582. STANYHURST, *Æneid*, iii. 566. And a sea-belch grounting on rough rocks RAPFULLY fretting.

1591. GREENE, *Second Part Conny-catching* [Works, x. 99]. He began to chafe, and to sweare, and to RAP OUT gogges Nownes.

1593. SHAKSPERE, *Taming of Shrew*, i. 2, 12. Villain, I say, knock me at this gate, And RAP me well. *Ibid.* And RAP him soundly, sir.

1610. *Percy Folio MS.*, 'Fryar and Boye,' 104. I would shee might a RAPPE let goe that might ring through the place.

1612. SHELTON, *Don Quixote*, iv. 18. He RAPPED OUT an oath or two.

1712. ARBUTHNOT, *John Bull* [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, ii. 155. The new substantives are . . . yellow-boy . . . RAP OVER THE FINGER ENDS . . .].

1743. FIELDING, *Jon. Wild*, l. xiii. It was his constant maxim, that he was a pitiful fellow who would stick at a little RAPPING for his friend.

1733. FIELDING, *Don Quixote*, i. 1. The Don is just such another lean RAMSCALLION as his . . . Rozinante. *Ibid.* (1743), *Joseph Andrews*, iv. iii. A profession [the legal] . . . which owes to such kind of RASCALLIONS the ill-will which weak persons bear towards it.

1749. SMOLLETT, *Gil Blas* (1812), iii. iv. Let us take an oath never to serve such RAPSCALLIONS, and swear to it by the river Styx.

1772. BRIDGES, *Burlesque Homer*, 216. As to that copper-nosed RASCALLION, Venus's bully-back and stallion.

d.1824. BYRON, *Letter to Mr. Murray* [*Ency. Dict.*]. The pompous RASCALLION.

1847. LYTTON, *Lucratia*, i. x. But the poor RAPSCALLION had a heart larger than many honest painstaking men.

1885. *Daily News*, 29 Sept. To give no goods to those RAPSCALLION servants.

RAREE-SHOW, *subs. phr.* (old).—A peep-show: specifically one carried in a box. Hence, **RAREE-SHOWMAN** = 'a poor Savoyard trotting up and down with portable Boxes of Puppet-shews at their backs . . . Pedlars of Puppets.'—B. E. (c.1696); GROSE (1785).

1697. VANBRUGH, *Provoked Wife*, ii. 1. Your language is a suitable trumpet to draw people's eyes upon the **RAREE-SHEW**.

1707. WARD, *Hud. Rediv.*, ii. vi. 3. The Rabble-Rout, Who move, in Tumults, to and fro, To wonder at the **RAREE-SHOW**.

1751. SMOLLETT, *Peregrine Pickle*, xlv. At last Pickle, being tired of exhibiting this **RAREE-SHOW** . . . handed her into the coach.

1837. LYTTON, *Maltravers*, v. xii. He expressed a dislike to be visited merely as a **RAREE-SHOW**.

1885. *Field*, 4 Ap. As though a Catholic Church were a theatre or **RAREE-SHOW**.

RASCAL, *subs.* (colloquial).—1. A term of (a) affection, and (b) contempt: cf. 'rogue,' 'scamp,' &c. (B. E., c.1696, and GROSE, 1785).

Also (2) 'a man without genitals' (GROSE, 1785). Whence **RASKABILIA** = the rascal people. See **RAPSCALLION**.

1557. TUSSEY, *Husbandrie*, 25. Beware **RASKABILIA**, slothful to worke.

RASHER-OF-WIND, *subs. phr.* (common).—1. A thin person; a LAMP-POST (*q.v.*), or YARD OF PUMP-WATER (*q.v.*).

2. (common).—Anything of little or no account.

1899. *D. Telegraph*, 7 Ap, 8, 2. Lets 'em howl, an' sweat, an' die, an' goes on all the time, as if they was jest **RASHERS** o' WIND.

RASP, *subs.* (venery).—The female *pudendum*: see **MONOSYLLABLE**. To **RASP** (or **DO A RASP**) = to copulate: see **GREENS** and **RIDE**.

RASPBERRY, *subs.* (stable).—See quot.

c.1880. *Sporting Times* [S. J. & C.]. One gentleman I came across had a way of finding out the cussedness of this or that animal by a method that I found to be not entirely his own. The tongue is inserted in the left cheek and forced through the lips, producing a peculiarly squashy noise that is extremely irritating. It is termed, I believe, a **RASPBERRY**, and when not employed for the purpose of testing horseflesh, is regarded rather as an expression of contempt than of admiration.

RASPBERRY-TART, *subs. phr.* (American).—A dainty girl.

2. (rhyming).—The heart; and (3) a **FART** (*q.v.*).

1892. MARSHALL, *Rhyme of the Rusher* [*Sporting Times*, 29 Oct.]. Then I sallied forth with a careless air, And contented **RASPBERRY-TART**.

RASPER, *subs.* (various).—Anything especial: as (hunting) a bad leap; (common) a punishing blow, rank tradesman, or flat falsehood;

1630. TAYLOR, *Works* [NARES]. If our hackney RATTLERS were so drawne, With cords, or ropes, or halters.

1633. COTTINGTON, *To Strafford* [HALLAM, *Const. Hist.*, II. 89]. The King hath so RATTLED my lord-keeper that he is the most pliable man in England.

1633. PRYNNE, *i Histrio-Matrix*, i. v. Our lascivious, impudent, RATTLE-FATED gadding females.

1636. HEYWOOD, *Love's Mistress*, 9. Boys without beards get boys, and girls bear girls; Fine little RATTLE-BABIES, scarce thus high, Are now called wives.

1644. HEVLIN, *Life of Laud*, 257. Receiving such a RATTLE for his former contempt.

1649. HAKEWELL, *Apology*. All this ado about the golden age, is but an empty RATTLE and frivolous conceit.

1660. PREYTS, *Diary*, 25 March. I did lay the law open to them, and RATTLE the master-attendants out of their wits almost.

1693. HACKET, *Williams*, i. 130. Many RATTLEHEADS as well as they, did bestir them to gain-stand this match.

1694. CONGREVE, *Double Dealer*, ii. 4. Pray your ladyship, give me leave to be angry—I'll RATTLE him up, I warrant you.

1701. FARQUHAR, *Sir Henry Widdair*, v. 3. I rather fancy that the RATTLE-HEADED fellow, her husband, has broken the poor lady's heart.

1708. SWIFT, *Agst. Abolishing X'mty.* [Ency. Dict.]. He RATTLES it out against Popery. *Ibid.*, *Jour. Stella*, ix. I chid the servants and made a RATTLE.

1709. STEELE, *Tatler*, No. 2. My Lady with her tongue was still prepar'd, She RATTLED loud, and he impatient heard.

1715. HEARNE, *Reliquiae*, 1715. Townshend, one of the secretaries of state, hath sent RATTLING letters to Dr. Charlett.

1749. FIELDING, *Tom Jones*, iv. v. Tom, though an idle, thoughtless, RATTING rascal, was nobody's enemy but his own.

1754. *Disc. John Poulter*, 37. Go three or four miles out of Town to meet the RATTLERS.

1764. MURPHY, *No One's Enemy*, ii. This RATTLE seems to please you: but let me tell you, the man who prevails with me must have extraordinary merit.

1773. GOLDSMITH, *She Stoops to Conquer*, iii. At the Ladies' Club in town I'm called their agreeable RATTLE.

1781. MESSINK, *Choice of Harlequin*, Song. RATTLING UP your darbies, come hither at my call.

1788. STEVENS, *Adv. of a Speculist*, ii. 151. He was such a RATTLE-HEAD, so inconstant and so unthinking.

1790. SHIRREP, *Poems*, 49. Gin Geordy be the RATTLE-SCULL I'm taul', I may expect to find him stiff and baul'.

1818. AUSTEN, *Northanger Abbey*, ix. She had not been brought up to understand the propensities of a RATTLE, nor to know to how many idle assertions and impudent falsehoods the excess or vanity will lead.

1819. MOORE, *Tom Crib*, 8. And long before daylight, gigs, RATTLERS, and prads were in motion for Moulsey.

1820. LAMB, *Elia* [South-sea House]. A little less facetious, and a great deal more obstreperous, was fine, RATTING, RATTLE-HEADED Plumer.

1821. EGAN, *Life in London*, II. v. At length a move was made, but not a RATTLER was to be had.

1844. THACKERAY, *Barry Lyndon*, i. 21. He danced prettily, to be sure, and was a pleasant RATTLE of a man.

1848. RUXTON, *Far West*, 12. Crawled like RATTLERS along this bottom.

1854. WHYTE MELVILLE, *General Bounce*, xiii. Who would have suspected the RATTING, agreeable, off-hand Mount Helicon of deep-laid schemes and daring ambition?

1857. KINGSLEY, *Two Years Ago*, xi. "RATTLE-FATE as I am, I forgot all about it."

1862. *Cornhill*, Nov., 648. We have just touched for a RATTING stake of sugar at Brum.

1865. DICKENS, *Our Mutual Friend*. I should have given him a RATTLER for himself, if Mrs. Boffin had not thrown herself betwixt us.

1878. JAMES, *Europeans*, iv. Robert Acton would put his hand into his pocket every day in the week if that RATTLE-FATED little sister of his should bid him.

Adj. (colloquial). — 1. See *subs.* 1.

2. (common). — Undiluted; NEAT (*q.v.*); a RAW RECRUIT = a nip of unwatered spirits.

RAW-HEAD (OR RAW-FLESH), *subs. phr.* (old). — A spectre; 'a scare-child' (B. E., GROSE): usually RAW-HEAD AND BLOODY-BONES.

1550. *Jyl of Brentford's Test*. [OLIPHANT, *New Eng.*, l. 524. The Devil's secretary bears the name of BLOODDY-BONE . . . whom we now couple with RAW-HEAD.]

. . . . *Wyll of the Dewyll* [HALLIWELL]. Written by our faithful secretaries, hobgoblin, RAWHEAD, AND BLOODY-BONE, in the spitefull audience of all the Court of hell.

1598. FLORIO, *Worlds of Wordes*, *Caccianemico*, a bragging craking boaster, a bugbeare, a RAW-FLESH AND BLOODDY BONE.

1622. FLETCHER, *Prophetess*, iv. 4. I was told before My face was bad enough: but now I look Like BLOODY-BONES AND RAW-HEAD to fright children.

1693. LOCKE, *Education*, 138. Servants . . . awe children, and keep them in subjection, by telling them of RAWHEAD AND BLOODY BONES.

1870. *Figaro*, 19 Oct. We have sometimes heard of a school of literature called "The RAW-HEAD AND BLOODY-BONES School."

RAW-LOBSTER, *subs. phr.* (obsolete). — A policeman: *cf.* LOBSTER = a soldier.

RAW-MEAT, *subs. phr.* (venery). — 1. The penis: see PRICK; and (2) a nude performer: see MEAT.

1766. *Old Song*, 'The Butcher' [*The Fiddler*, 13]. All women in love never like to be stinted, Take care that her mag with RAW MEAT is well fed, Lest the horns of an ox should adorn your calves' head.

RAW-'UNS (THE), *subs. phr.* (pugilistic). — The naked fists.

1887. *Daily News*, 15 Sept., 4, 8. This encounter was without gloves, or, in the elegant language of the ring, with the RAW UNS.

1891. *Sporting Life*, 26 Mar. I will stake £1000 to £800, and fight you with the RAW-'UNS. *Ibid.* Even Jem Carney . . . has been obliged to abandon the RAW-UN's for gloves pure and simple.

RAY, *subs.* (thieves'). — See quot.

1862. MAYHEW, *Lon. Lab.*, iv. 319. "Joe said to him, 'There is Dick's first trial, and you must give him a RAY for it,' *i.e.*, 1/6.

RAYMONDER. See RAMROD, 2.

RAZOR, *subs.* (American University). — See quot.

18 [7]. *Yale Univ. Mag.* [S. J. & C.]. A pun in the elegant college dialect is called a RAZOR, while an attempt at a pun is styled a sick RAZOR. The sick ones are by far the most numerous; however, once in a while you meet with one in quite respectable health.

2. (common). — In *pl.* = aerated waters; SOBER-WATER (*q.v.*).

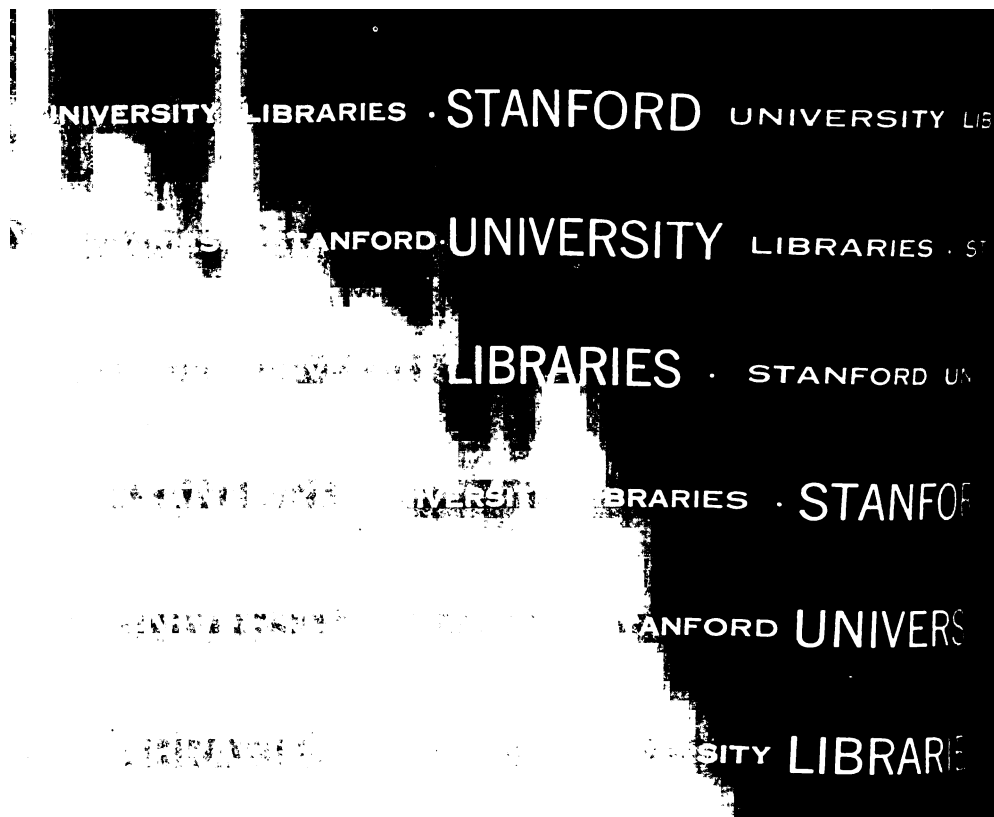
PARLOUR-FULL OF RAZORS.
See PARLOUR.

RAZOR-STROP, *subs. phr.* (legal). — A copy of a writ.

RAZZLE-DAZZLE, *subs. phr.* (American). — A frolic.

1890. GUNTER, *Miss Nobody*, xiv. I'm going to RAZZLE-DAZZLE the boys . . . with my great lightning change act. *Ibid.*, xv. 'Little Gussie's RAZZLE DAZZLE' [Title of chapter].

1901. BINSTRAD, *More Gal's Gossip*, 54. Bank-holidayites on the RAZZLE-DAZZLE.



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